

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 20

May, 1915

No. 5

Book Collecting in India and the Far East *

Stewart Culin, Brooklyn Institute museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.

During my travels in the East I have found diversion in collecting books. The objects of my search have been western books which have gone astray and native works useful as specimens of bookmaking or as examples of art in fields in which I am interested. I have looked, too, for the rare imprints of the European presses established in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as for the scarce products of more recent missionary establishments. This most diverting pursuit has led me through old book shops in Japan, China and India, and to the examination of public and private libraries. I have visited, too, many of the great printing and publishing houses maintained by missionary churches. There is nothing unusual or remarkable in my efforts. Many travelers have similar interests. Scholars collect in their own fields and dealers' agents are constantly alert to find rarities for the European markets.

My first oriental book collecting was in Japan, where I discovered out-of-the-way foreign books relating to the East. Some were from the libraries of well-known scholars, with interesting associations. Tokyo is filled with second-hand book shops. They are more numerous than in any other city in the world. They abound in the regions adjacent to the Imperial university and the colleges and schools, but exist in every quarter. The shops are alike, flimsy structures, with fronts

open to the streets. Everywhere one sees novels and magazines, spread to catch the eye. These, with school books, compose the bulk of the wares. Certain shops are devoted to scientific periodicals. Others, of a higher grade, sell foreign books, while in the larger establishments one finds old Japanese and Chinese works. Great rarities, no longer to be purchased in China, may be discovered here; imprints of the Sung dynasty or reprints from Sung blocks, all much prized by collectors. The rare books are not on view, but are brought for inspection from a go-down. The second hand dealers are usually poor. They borrow from one another and have a club where they hold weekly auctions for their members. Twice a year they hire a large room in a tea house where they exhibit myriads of books spread over the mat-covered floor of the enormous hall. These exhibitions are confined ordinarily to native books which are labelled with their title and price. The Japanese are a nation of collectors, and book collecting is more general than in any country I know. Collectors devote themselves to specialties, no subject being too minute or remote. In no other country do the people, of all classes, make such use of books. Their present native production is enormous. These books conform with ours in all but language and typography, half-tone illustrations and foreign paper being used with results that are inexpensive and without elegance. Current foreign books on politics and science are translated and printed rapidly in vast numbers. In this way Japan acquires an instant, if

*Read at Atlantic City, March 6, 1915.

somewhat superficial knowledge, of Western thought. In addition to the cheap imprints there is a large production of illustrated works in which both modern processes and the old methods of wood-block printing are employed. Many of their new illustrated books, especially those on design, would be valuable additions to our Western libraries. They transcend in beauty and accuracy the expensive foreign books on the same subjects.

Kyoto, more conservative than Tokyo, remains more interesting to the antiquary. Here one finds manuscripts and Chinese imprints. Kyoto has a public library, created and administered by a scholar educated in America. He holds well-attended monthly exhibitions of books and associated objects and keeps the treasures of his collections before the public eye. Osaka, too, has a similar library, created by a man of like intelligence. Readers, other than students, are charged a small admission fee to Japanese libraries, their ticket entitling them to a certain small number of books to be read in the reading room. In Tokyo, the Imperial library is well administered, but it lacks the personal note that endears Kyoto to visiting scholars.

The intellectual curiosity of the Japanese transcends that of all other people of the East. A similar development may be looked forward to in China. There, as in Japan, the old-fashioned method of printing books from wooden blocks is being replaced by advanced processes, and foreign-style books are turned out in enormous numbers by native presses. At present they are printing translations of text books for which the new system of education creates an overwhelming demand. Shanghai is the centre of this new book making, while Peking remains the place for old books. Its book shops are in a long street near the wall in the outer, Chinese, city. They yield nothing of interest to the casual or uninformed visitor. Here, as in Japan, books with objects of art, are

brought by shop-keepers and brokers to one's residence.

An interesting event of my visit to Peking was an opportunity to inspect the library of books on China collected by the present adviser of the Chinese President, Dr George E. Morrison. So complete is this library that Peking residents will tell you it contains every book on China ever printed. Housed in a special building in the compound near his residence, it is the chief delight of its owner.

The disturbance of the last twenty years has resulted in a great destruction of books in China, and indeed, one wonders that they survive as they do. In China and in India the white ant demands constant vigilance. In Japan and in southern China, dampness is an enemy. In Japan, fire is responsible for many losses. Two years ago the principal book quarter of Tokyo was swept bare. As a protection all who can so afford keep their treasures in more or less fire-proof go-downs. From there they are withdrawn twice a year for an airing; these airings affording the chief opportunities for seeing the private collections. The business of selling new foreign books in China and Japan has been in the hands of the firm of Kelly and Walsh, who have large and well-stocked shops in Yokohama, Shanghai and Hong Kong. From them one may procure the numerous publications in European languages that appear in the Far East. The best English list of such works is published monthly by Luzac & Co.

In India we find a similar, if less extensive development of a vernacular press. Its products are chiefly political, literary and religious, and inspired by a strong national sentiment. They are cheap and lack durability. Foreign books succumb to the climate, and a diligent search of the book stalls of Indian cities—Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Colombo, yielded practically nothing. As for manuscripts, apart from the palm-leaf books, they have been sought for their illustrations and are to be procured only at great ex-

pense. Vast numbers of these beautiful books have been dismembered, and the individual pages sold, often for more than the original price of the entire work. The chief publishers in India to-day are the governments of the various provinces. Their books, which include numerous works on art, archaeology and linguistics, are sold, and may be procured from Thacker, Spink & Co. of Calcutta, their accredited agents, who supply a catalog.

In India, as in the ports of China and Japan, the foreign clubs maintain circulating libraries for their members and the importations of foreign books are thereby diminished. The Club libraries of Yokohama, Shanghai, Canton and Hong Kong are renowned. At Calcutta a most notable library of natural history is in the India museum, a library maintained, like the Raffles library, in the Museum of Singapore, by constant watchfulness against white ants.

In concluding this summary, I should express to you the increased interest I have found in travel through my search. It has led me into many pleasant ways; it has brought me into cordial relations with people, and finally, as your guest to this agreeable place on this most auspicious and agreeable occasion.

There are people who go about the world looking out for slights, and they are necessarily miserable, for they find them at every turn—especially the imaginary ones. One has the same pity for such men as for the very poor. They are the morally illiterate. They have had no real education, for they have never learned how to live. Few men know how to live. We grow up at random, carrying into mature life the merely animal methods and motives we had as little children. And it does not occur to us that all this must be changed; that much of it must be reversed; that life is the finest of the Fine Arts; that it has to be learned with lifelong patience, and that the years of our pilgrimage are all too short to master it triumphantly.—Henry Drummond.

Work Outside the Library Walls*

Nannie W. Jayne, Public library, Bluffton, Ind.

The time has long since gone by when books in a library were to be guarded rather than circulated and used. We smile at the contemplation of the spectacled custodian, jealously hoarding his precious volumes, some of which were even chained for safekeeping. Some reminders of the past still prevail. The spectacles, in many cases, have persisted, and the librarian is often found chained to the desk, though she and her people may not be aware of it.

With the present trend in library work, this cannot long continue. The new spirit which has entered into it has broken the bounds of mere stone walls, and has made of it a matter of community life. The object now is not only to bring books and people together, but to put the people in touch with the library as a social and civic institution. This end can only be reached by a larger community activity. The only question is, how much of the librarian's time and energy may properly be expended on work which lies outside the accepted routine.

In my opinion, the town, perhaps in our section of the country, the typical county seat, offers the best opportunity for working out this newer ideal. It presents a community small enough to give a common interest in its development, and a people welded together by a common purpose, and the ties of kinship and neighborliness. It is impossible in such a community, to isolate any one activity, and the library has advantages possessed by no other institution for reaching out and organizing these interests into a working whole.

In attempting to do this, perhaps two questions should be considered: What can thus be brought to the library to make it more effective? What can the library give to the com-

*Read before the Richmond conference of librarians.

munity by becoming identified with its activities?

The life of the people will likely find expression in the church, the home, the school, the club, the lodge, and in business and amusement. How to relate the work of the library to these is our problem.

It seems to me that first of all, the library must take its proper place in the eyes of the people—must be regarded as more than merely a pleasing adjunct to the real life of the town. It is not enough that the leading citizen shall take the chance visitor around and point out the building, and enjoy a classic thrill at the sight of its Corinthian (or Doric or Ionic), columns. It must mean power, influence, moral and intellectual force, as well as pleasure and beauty, or it is a failure.

To give the library such a standing depends almost wholly on the librarian. She must be able, in her contact with the public, to leave this impression. When occasion demands, she must come before the people and uphold the dignity of the library, as the church is upheld by its ministry, and the school by its officers and teachers. For example, in a certain town, at the beginning of the school year, the superintendent entertained the teachers, school board, library board, librarian, ministers, and some patrons of influence. There was speech making, in which the librarian was asked to join, and she made a valiant effort to hold her own with the ministers and "leading citizen." In a certain other town, no such opportunity came. No reception was given by the superintendent, and the librarian, a stranger, bade fair to remain silent in her own domain, and the virtues of the library unsung. But why not turn things the other way about? With the library board assisting, the teachers and school officers, and a few interested citizens, were entertained at the library, and after some light refreshments, there was an opportunity for an exchange of views, the librarian had her say, and as hostess, gave a cordial welcome to

those assembled, and invited them to co-operate in the work which she proposed to do.

On another occasion the librarian was asked to be one of several persons, representing church, school and business men, to give a series of Sunday evening talks in one of the churches. When her turn came, while somewhat dismayed at a crowded auditorium, and at the thought of occupying (not filling) a pulpit, she made the effort, so that the library might take its place, and be represented among other institutions of the community and results followed.

Another important point is to seize each opportunity as presented. In Bluffton, one day last fall, such an unexpected opening came. Mrs Wells, the Los Angeles police woman, was in Ft. Wayne, and would come to Bluffton, perhaps, if an effort were made to secure her. A few people were interested and gave much assistance. Only a day intervened in which to make all plans, secure seats, advertise the lecture, etc. A committee meeting in the librarian's office arranged all details. The newspapers rose to the occasion, giving plenty of space, though they did call Mrs Wells a "woman cop." The address was fine and uplifting, presenting the causes of juvenile delinquency in a way to set the people thinking. It was the first lecture of its kind ever given in the library assembly room in the ten years it had stood waiting. The president of the library board presided, the library, under a new librarian, thus making a somewhat hurried and unpremeditated bow to the public. Several times since, by the use of various lures, the room has been filled to overflowing, and its proper equipment is now assured. This was one of the ends desired. We had not thought of it becoming necessary to begin with the Los Angeles police force, but that was the way it came about.

Many of the smaller cities are much in need of entertainment and diversion of a higher character. In the absence

of anything better, the picture show and cheap vaudeville have undisputed possession of the field. After spending four years in a town given over to these, I decided that the library should step in and change conditions. It did not seem practical, for many reasons, for the library to undertake the task alone, so, using my membership in one of the best clubs as a starting point, I began to talk to the club members of the desirability of a lecture course for the coming winter. It had been a dozen years since a good course had been given, the town had grown smaller, and the opinion was unanimous that any attempt would result in failure. In the end, however, an organization composed of about seventy women was formed, and a good course put on, every dollar of the expense being secured in advance, and a goodly margin of profit remaining at the close of the season. This course is carried on year by year, and is the pride of the town. My reward came a few months ago, when on an interurban car, I heard a group of working girls from this town discussing "our lecture course," and giving keen and appreciative comments on each number. This work I consider directly related to the primary object of a public library.

No better opportunity comes to the librarian than is offered by the Parent-teacher clubs. While not usually coming properly in either class, a librarian may let it be known that she considers herself a fit subject for membership in these clubs. It is my privilege to belong to two, and on various occasions I have been permitted to speak at the meetings. In our town they are very active, doing much of the social and civic work of the community. During the past winter the larger organization conducted a Child Welfare week. Speakers in various lines of welfare work were secured, and the week given over to the interests of children and young people. At first our part in it did not seem quite clear. An exhibit, which was to come from the Board of state charities, was at

once secured for the library, remaining in place all week, and bringing the people to us. We assisted in reporting all the lectures for the daily papers, working at the head of a large and somewhat inactive press committee. We went to the hotel and met speakers, conducted them to the place of meeting, and did various other things which identified the library with the movement. A liberal library board paid an extra assistant that the librarian might be free to do these things. Before the interest aroused by this campaign had subsided, the library had printed and distributed a list of books on child welfare. A copy of this list was given to each member of the Parent-teacher clubs, with instructions to read, checking those read until the list should be completed. Many are still reading, and the books occupy a prominent place in the library, easily accessible.

A Boys' campaign followed soon after the Welfare week, and we again came in touch as far as possible. We were active enough to be invited to attend the banquet with which it closed.

Not long since, at the telephone, the voice of a well known woman of our town asked: "Would you be interested in a Better Babies contest?" I thought for an instant—better babies, better boys and girls, better men and women, better citizens, a more progressive community, a better library and a larger and more productive field for its work—"Yes, I'm interested in a 'Better Babies' contest." Our plans are well formed for conducting such a contest at the coming street fair, which is both a town and a county enterprise, and I consider it wholly fitting that the librarian shall take a hand in it.

A few years ago, working with a civic league, I helped to conduct a "Clean-up day." The city dump heap rose to unheard-of heights as a monument to our industry, and the gardens bloomed all summer as a result of flower seeds distributed. The point is this: Not one of the meetings in which all this was worked out was permitted

by us to be held elsewhere than at the library, and so interwoven was the whole movement with the thought of the library that it seemed a part of its work.

An invitation to the teachers and pupils to come to the library will probably not be accepted unless presented in person, so our plan is to go from school to school, armed with application blanks. In a brief talk, it is suggested that the application be signed and returned to the library the same evening. In a ward building, the plan of making it a special day works well. For the Columbian school, "Columbian day" resulted in perhaps thirty or forty new registrations, while "Park day," following closely after, exceeded this by a few, and thus the movement was stimulated by a healthy rivalry. Do not be content to go once to each school, but go again and again, until the children know you, and greet you with the same friendly grin they have for the teacher. Insist that your visits be promptly returned, and be ready for the rush which is almost sure to follow.

Every librarian uses bulletins and lists inside the library building, but did you ever stop to think that these reach only the people who are already actually where you want them to be—inside the building? The advertising must be placed on the outside if it is to accomplish much in the way of reaching the uninterested. There are many ways in which this may be done, a few of which we have tried. A library poster sometimes serves this purpose. The one we are now distributing is 17x12½ in., printed on bristol board of a primrose tint. An oblong space was outlined by the printer, in which was pasted an attractive colored post card of the library building. The name of the library, hours of opening, and a brief list of the classes of books constituted the printed matter. In this the Dewey classes were not strictly followed, but were supplemented by attractive sub-division heads, as electricity, engineering, domestic science.

These posters were placed in factories, railway and interurban stations, schools, Sunday school and league rooms at the churches, hotels, restaurants, etc.

In no phase of library work is it so essential that the librarian give something of herself to the people and extend the range of her active personal service, as in the rural library extension. From the beginning of the campaign for township support, there must be a direct and systematic contact with the people. The omission of this is soon felt by rural patrons, and they will either sullenly resent it, manifesting their dissatisfaction by a lack of friendliness, or worse, boycott the library. Sometimes they will frankly demand what they want. In one particular instance this came to me as a revelation. In company with a member of the board, I had driven miles in an east wind one bleak autumn day, and established a station in a certain neighborhood, thawing out a frigid school teacher, whose attitude sent our spirits lower than the mercury. After months of patient work in this locality, the residents finally caught the idea and proceeded to make the most of it. In the spring came the request, "Come out to our village and conduct a story hour, such as you do for the town children." It was impossible to do so at once, and by the time we could go it was June. Then came the question as to where the story hour should be held. In the school, some one suggested. I said "No." Did you ever enter a deserted school room on a hot summer day, and would you stifle a fairy or folk tale in such an atmosphere? In the church, perhaps? Again I said "No." Had I not barely survived an attempt to talk in a church only a few months before! Then some one suggested the grove—that was it, the grove. "Just a step out of town, you see." The "step" proved to be a generous half mile, and the heat was intense. But we finally arrived, and I told a number of stories to a group of about twenty-five wondering young-

sters, and perhaps ten adults. The stories concluded, we all played games till the sun went down. Not much was said about books, just enough to lend interest, but there is a vigorous station in that neighborhood at the present time.

To reach one locality, where the older people were stiff-necked in their opposition, we organized a girls' club, first winning their confidence by helping out with material for an entertainment they were giving. A course of study, extending over the winter months, was outlined, and the girls did fairly successful work under our supervision. They were invited to come to the library for their closing meeting. We secured a reader, induced a member of the library board to talk, and furnished some games and refreshments. The librarians of the various rural stations, many of whom were young girls, were also invited to be present, and the occasion brought us all nearer together. One of my regrets on leaving this community a year ago, was the breaking of the strong ties formed in working with these country girls, to whom the library was coming to mean much.

In another community, it seemed wise to join a domestic science club, composed of farmers' wives—a librarian must be something of "a joiner," you see. These women enjoy their position of superior knowledge in this particular field, but they read all the books the library will furnish on the subject.

We attend township teachers institutes, distributing lists, and sometimes talking if permitted to get the floor. And let me say here that teachers need educating as to books and libraries—sometimes I think that much of our effort should be centered upon them.

And so the modern library building is only a center from which may radiate impulses which shall quicken the mental, moral and spiritual life of a community—an influence not bounded by walls, nor to be computed in figures, but none the less vital and lasting.

Books as Gifts for Our Friends in the Country*

Ward H. Edwards, A. M., librarian, Wm. Jewell college, Liberty, Mo.

"No life, my honest Scholar, no life so happy and so pleasant as the life of a well-governed Angler; for when the lawyer is swallowed up with business, and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, then we sit on cow-slip banks, hear the birds sing, and possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silent silver streams, which we now see glide so quietly by us. Indeed, my good Scholar, we may say of Angling, as Dr Boteler said of strawberries: 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did'; and so, if I might be judge, 'God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than Angling.'"

These words from "The Complete Angler," the elegant simplicity of the style of the book, the ease and unaffected humor of the dialogue, the lovely scenes it delineates, the enchanting pastoral poetry it contains, the fine morality it so sweetly inculcates, all conspired together to make Washington Irving fall in love with angling. He tried angling and gave it up in despair at the end of half an hour. His gentle humor is nowhere more evident than in his sly admission that the seductive pages of honest Izaak Walton had more charm for him than angling itself.

Washington Irving was an angler only in theory; so am I. I love few books as I love "The Complete Angler," and can conceive of few pleasures to be compared with a re-reading of it—if the tobacco is good and the pipe sufficiently seasoned and sweetened by long companionship. As John Major says, in his edition of the book, it might almost as well have been called "The Divine Art of Contentment" or "The True Christian Philosopher," had not the modesty of the author dictated the less pretentious

*Read before the Missouri Valley library club, Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 10, 1914.

title. It is, I grant you, no book for the modern, up-to-date matter-of-fact librarian; it does not delight his heart (or her heart) as does "The statesman's yearbook" or "Who's who in America"; there are no statistics in it; but I do not consider that anything *against* the book.

I am an angler, too, by proxy. Just now I am very glad to have Henry Van Dyke do my fishing for me, and all I require of him is that he tell me about it when he gets back in some such book as "Fisherman's luck."

I am no more of a farmer than I am an angler; I think I am just about as much of a farmer as I am an angler. And I have to write about farm books! Theoretically, I am a farmer. We live on a small town lot; we keep a few chickens, three Indian Runner ducks, and a guinea-hen; in the spring we plant a little garden—mostly old-fashioned flowers—zinnias, ragged robins, forget-me-nots, verbenas, sweet alyssum, phlox.

I am not a farmer, but every spring I have an attack of seed-catalogitis that acts as a sort of anti-toxin on the book-catalogitis that has become chronic with me during the rest of the year. I read the seed catalogs, and mark them, too, as faithfully as I do the catalogs of auction sales, second-hand books, and English remainders; as eagerly as I do the *Publisher's Weekly*. I become as familiar with Burpee and Henderson, and Stark Brothers as with Anderson, and McClurg, and The Union Library Association. If I had a farm I know what I would plant; just as I know what coveted first editions, and association copies, and fine bindings I would buy if I were not a poor school teacher.

I am not a farmer—yet. I love the country and I love country people, and some good day I am going to be a farmer—just as soon as my salary will warrant it. In my boyhood days I dreamed over Donald G. Mitchell's "My farm of Edgewood" more than over any other book. I'll not deny that "Robinson Crusoe" was my first love

and that later "Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer" claimed the first place in my affections, but I never outgrew my love for "My farm of Edgewood." I still dream over it, another copy, a first edition, with a three-page autograph letter of the author's laid in. I read John Burroughs and Henry David Thoreau, and I am already a farmer—in my dreams.

I think I shall like best about my farm, not my stock, or my barns, filled to bursting with corn and alfalfa and timothy and clover, or my granary, with its dollar and a quarter wheat, or my broad acres of meadow and field and woodland; not even the sunshine and birds and flowers and landscape; but I think I shall like best the long winter evenings, around an open fire, with plenty of good hickory logs to burn and plenty of good books to read. What joy then to be

"Shut in from all the world without!" with no door bell on the front door and no formal receptions and dinners to attend and no theater parties, the title of the latest novel not even known!

You may think me a visionary, impractical—even sentimental. You may think my dreams unfit me for choosing books as Christmas gifts for our friends in the country; as a matter of fact, they are my best qualification. Dreams are thought of as luxuries by most of us, by many of us as sinful luxuries. Would that this poor old world could realize that they are more necessary to our well-being than food and clothing and shelter. Farmers do not dream enough. They are good providers for their bodies, but how few of them would understand this, from the Koran: "If I had two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy white hyacinths to feed my soul!" Books must furnish their dreams for them, as they do for most of us. But books are hard to get in the country—away from libraries and book stores. And when they do get books, they often do not get the right kind. Many a farm's supply of books is made up of a family Bible, used chiefly as a record of births

and marriages and deaths, and as a repository for various bits of ribbon and samples of dress goods; a Montgomery Ward catalog, and a few disreputable-looking, dog-eared, worn-out school books, with possibly a stock book bought from a boy trying to make his way through college. Let's send them books for Christmas; Santa Claus will gladly carry them for us. (I hope none of you is so skeptical, so utterly lost to the simple faith of your childhood that you no longer believe in Santa Claus.) Any book that is good in town is good in the country—often much better. And any book is better than no book at all. What books shall we send? Books that deal with country life will, perhaps, be best; but not practical books, books on farm management, better crops, etc.; that is too much like giving a boy an overcoat for Christmas when he wants a drum. They need the practical books but they have so much of the practical every day that a change will be welcome. Let's send them books full of the beauty of the world and the joy of living, books full of faith and hope and love. Let's send them essays and novels, not novels, to be sure, that magnify all that is cheap and tawdry and artificial and out of the ordinary in city life, novels that would make them dissatisfied with the commonplace things of their everyday lives; but novels that throw a halo of glory around the purest, sweetest things of life. There is a strong prejudice among the older generation in the country against novels. Let the reading of those we send them convince them that many novels are truer than any history that ever was written—that the ideal is as much a reality as the real. Let's send them books on better country homes, better country schools, better country churches, a better social life, books that will develop community spirit. They know they need better roads; but, oh, how many there are who are blind to these far greater needs!

We must be careful not to preach

at our friends through our books for fear of losing them; nobody wants to be preached at. The books ought to be attractive not only in content but also in appearance—compelling their interest on account of the beauty of the binding, the printing, the paper, the illustrations.

We must not forget the boys and the girls; there is more hope for them in good books than for their fathers and mothers. A good book that will keep a boy or a girl happy on the farm is worth its weight in gold.

With these thoughts in mind, the following list of books has been made. It is needless to say that this is not a list of "best books"; it is only a list of good books. It is equally needless to say that the list might have been indefinitely lengthened.

Books for farmers and their wives

Letters of an old farmer to his son, by William R. Lighton. \$1.35. Doran. Sympathetic and suggestive modern farming.

Farm boys and girls, by William A. McKeever. \$1.50. Macmillan. The very best book for the parents of farm boys and girls. Illus. Bibl.

The country school, by Clifton Johnson. \$1.50. Crowell. An attempt to present intimately and clearly the salient features of the schools of the last century in their more poetic and picturesque aspects. Illus.

The church of the open country, by Warren H. Wilson. 50c. A. B. P. S. Shows necessity for the church in the open country and suggests how its problems may be solved. Illus. Bibl.

The challenge of the country, by G. W. Fiske. 75c. Association Press. A study of country life opportunity and an analysis of the various phases of the rural problem of America. Illus. Bibl.

The journal of a country woman, by Emma Winner Rogers. Cloth, \$1.25; flexible leather, \$2.00. Methodist Book Concern. Full of sanity and a happy love of nature. Illus.

Walden, by H. D. Thoreau. \$2.00. Crowell. The experiences of a poet-naturalist in the woods; his philosophy is second only to Emerson's. Illus.

The outlook to Nature, by L. H. Bailey. \$1.25. Macmillan. Suggests greater efficiency, hopefulness, and repose through a sympathetic attitude toward nature.

How to live in the country, by E. P. Powell. \$1.75. Outing. The record of an actual experience. Illus.

Adventures in contentment, by David

Grayson. \$1.35. Doubleday. Charmingly written; optimistic.

Winter sunshine; Locusts and wild honey; and Signs and seasons, by John Burroughs. \$1.25 each. Houghton. No other American has done so much to open the eyes of his countrymen to the beauties and wonders of nature.

Fiction

The making of a country home, by J. P. Mowbray (A. C. Wheeler) \$1.50. Doubleday.

Aunt Jane of Kentucky, by Eliza Calvert Hall (E. C. Obenchain) \$1.50. Little. Illus.

Farming it, by H. A. Shute. \$1.20. Houghton. Illus.

The harvester, by Gene Stratton-Porter. \$1.35. Doubleday. Illus.

Freckles, by Gene Stratton-Porter. \$1.20. Doubleday. Illus.

David Harum, by E. N. Wescott. \$1.50. Appleton.

Books for farm boys and girls

Being a boy, by Charles Dudley Warner. 60c. Houghton. Illus.

The Hoosier schoolmaster, by Edward Eggleston. \$1.75. Thompson.

Joe, the book farmer, by Garrard Harris. \$1.00. McClurg. Illus.

The young farmer, by George B. Hill. \$1.00. Penn. Illus.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, by Kate Douglas Wiggin. \$1.25. Houghton.

The wild flower book for young people, by Alice Lounsberry. \$1.50. Stokes. Illus.

Poems of country life, ed. by G. S. Bryan. \$1.00. Sturgis.

Periodicals

Breeders' Gazette. Weekly. \$1.00.

Wallace's Farmer. Weekly. \$1.00.

Country Gentleman. Weekly. \$1.50.

Country Life in America. Monthly. \$4.00.

The Garden Magazine. Monthly. \$1.50.

Poultry Success. Monthly. 50c.

1915 Garden and Farm Almanac. 25c. Doubleday.

We moralize, we philosophize about the discontent of man. We give little reasons for it; but the real reason of it all is this: that man is greater than his circumstances, and that God is always calling him to come up to the fullness of his life. Dreadful will be the day when the world becomes contented. Sad will be the day for every man when he becomes absolutely contented with the life that he is living, with the thoughts that he is thinking, with the deeds that he is doing.—Phillips Brooks.

Municipal Reference Work in a Public Library*

What a medium sized library can do

This recognition of the municipal reference library by the author of an excellent text on American city government is significant. Indeed, such libraries have been heartily welcomed by students of municipal affairs. Their establishment is regarded by many as a very potent factor in the solution of municipal problems. We believe no more potent factor has been discovered within the past decade—a remarkable decade in municipal history.

Purpose

It is not our intention, however, to discuss the value of the municipal reference library. It is important that its purpose be clearly defined.

In a recently published work by Charles A. Beard on "American city government," the author says:

"A number of cities have established municipal reference libraries, stocked with official reports and special works dealing with the manifold problems which city councils and administrative officers have to face, thus making the experience of the world available for the public officer of the meanest city."

The last phrase of the excerpt just quoted aptly expresses such purpose—to make "the experience of the world available for the public officer of the meanest city." We would add, and for the prospective public officer, the private citizen, or any group of citizens interested in municipal questions. For the citizen of today will be the public officer of tomorrow, and the administration of any city government is apt to be no more efficient than an enlightened public demands. Happily, the movement for admitting to municipal offices only especially trained men is sweeping the country with remarkable force. The municipal reference library has an unusual opportunity to aid in training the men. It can provide the literature that the man

*Read before Indiana library conference at Earlham college, July, 1913.

in training needs. In fact, such a library should be an information bureau, an experience exchange, to which, as the Honorable William A. Prendergast has so well said, "Public officials, public employees, civic organizations, and citizens generally should be able to appeal for information on any subject that may reasonably be considered within the domain of municipal performance."

In 1910, a committee of the National Municipal League outlined the functions of the municipal reference bureau or library. We give the substance of these suggestions:

1. The municipal reference library should be made the agency for the exchange of municipal documents.

2. It should collect, collate, compile, and disseminate data or information relating to every phase of municipal work.

3. It should aid in drafting ordinances.

4. Information should be collected primarily for the city officials, but it should also be made available for the general public, the press, and for social, civic, and improvement associations.

5. The library should issue a bulletin containing interesting comments for newspaper purposes and showing how the reference library can be of assistance to officials and to the public as each matter of general interest gets the center of the stage.

We believe that the medium sized library can perform all of these functions, with the possible exception of drafting municipal ordinances. It is probable that the library of medium size will be able to support a municipal department only by combining it with some other special line of work. For instance this was the situation at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where a "Business and Municipal Department" was organized, covering technical, industrial, and business subjects as well as those purely municipal. Where possible, a better working basis might be obtained by establishing a municipal and sociological or civics department, Mu-

nicipal reference work, however, carries one very frequently into engineering subjects, and we have found it quite convenient to have the technical books shelved with the municipal collection. While an entirely separate department is extremely desirable, a combination of departments with a specially trained librarian in charge is a very good substitute. In the latter case, some of the legitimate work of a municipal department must be left undone for lack of time, such as the drafting of municipal ordinances. But in the smaller cities that work is frequently done by the city attorney or solicitor. This is the case at Fort Wayne. The library can supply copies of ordinances from other cities and such data as will enable those drafting the ordinances to avoid working blindly.

Resources

With reference to the resources of the municipal reference library, methods of collecting material and obtaining aid from outside sources will be discussed during this conference by our state legislative reference librarian. We will confine our discussion to methods of determining what subjects should be covered. We shall also suggest a few of such subjects.

A municipal reference librarian should keep in touch with municipal movements throughout the country by reading the newspapers, magazines, and books on municipal questions. Two new books recently published are of unusual value. One by W. B. Munro, "The government of American cities," considers the machinery of city government; the other by Charles A. Beard, previously quoted, deals with administrative features. Both contain excellent bibliographies.

It is of the greatest importance that one should study his own city. Information secured must be applicable to local conditions and needs. One must know those conditions and recognize the needs.

The following directions are imperatively necessary in order to succeed:

Read the charter under which cities are organized in your state. Know the system of government of your own city. Find out what the various offices and departments are and the functions of each.

Be familiar with the publications of your city government.

Watch for subjects being considered or likely to be considered by city officials. Keep constant lookout for civic matters that are or should be of interest to citizens as well as officials. You can do this by

a. Observation—that is, note the condition of sidewalks, lights, buildings, etc.

b. By reading the daily papers, especially note the editorial columns and subjects considered by clubs, associations, and political gatherings.

c. Attend such meetings when possible and meet the people.

d. Talk with individuals. Rather, listen to individuals. Let them do the talking when on a quest for subjects.

This constant watching will enable you to anticipate calls and have material ready.

We recently interviewed a number of our city officials, including the mayor, city comptroller, city attorney, and secretary of the department of public health and charities, as well as some of our prominent business men and attorneys. To each we put this question: "How can the municipal reference library of Fort Wayne help the city officials and citizens?" The replies were very practical and suggestive. We give the substance of a few of them:

1. Make the library an educational center on municipal government and administration. Get the whole city to discussing the question, "What is city government." Do this by suggesting topics and supplying material to debating circles, clubs, schools, and church societies. One man offered to contribute ten dollars toward a prize or prizes to be given for the best essays on the subject mentioned, "What is city government," suggesting that the

contest be conducted by one of the clubs and that the library furnish abundant reference material. In such work it is extremely important that the library maintain a strictly unbiased attitude. It must supply impartially all material available on any one or on all sides of questions presented.

2. Another suggestion offered was that the library should secure all information obtainable on rock well water supply for drinking purposes, considering the following points:

a. Purity and methods of purification.

b. Possibility of exhaustion of supply.

c. Amount needed per capita.

d. Cost of installation and maintenance of system.

e. Water rates, etc.

What other sources of water supply are used in cities, and give similar information regarding them.

3. With reference to street pavements, get from other cities copies of standard street and sidewalk specifications. Find out what material is used for paving residence streets, and what for much traveled streets. What is the practice about using cheap paving material on boulevards and before expensive property. Get cost of pavements in other cities. Find out just what the price includes, where possible, and what is the cost of labor.

4. Secure information about prices of electricity for lighting and power purposes.

5. Get the rates charged for transportation, both traction and taxicab, with circumstances determining the rate fixed in each city.

6. What have other cities done toward eliminating heavy traffic on busy streets and on boulevards, and what are the requirements as to keeping vehicles moving.

7. What street cleaning systems are in use and with what results.

8. What is the average or usual distance between city streets, and what is the consensus of opinion as to the

proper length of a city square in the busy district and in residence districts.

9. What has been done in other cities about eliminating noise, smoke, dust, etc.

10. The health department assured us that the library would be rendering an invaluable service to them and to the city by securing and properly indexing reports from health departments of other cities and copies of ordinances passed relative to health and sanitation. The secretary showed us a miscellaneous collection of such reports received by his department. He explained that they had neither time nor facilities for arranging and indexing these reports, and that they were, therefore, utterly useless.

May we digress to remark that the cataloging or indexing of such material is no mean task, and may sometimes seem a hopeless one. With all due respect to the excellent instruction given in library schools about perfection of form and uniformity of content in making catalog cards and reference lists, we would suggest that these things must be sacrificed to speed. The only really necessary point to bear in mind is that your card must enable you to find your material quickly.

11. The library should take charge of the exchange of public documents.

12. Bound volumes of city ordinances and copies of separate ordinances should be collected from cities of all sizes. These will be invaluable to attorneys as well as to officials. A prominent attorney of our city was working on a case when we interviewed him. For this case he said a large collection of municipal ordinances would be of the greatest use.

13. Additional subjects suggested are: Auditing and accounting, central purchasing department, expense budgets, building codes, housing, recreation centers, parks and playgrounds, municipal auditoriums, swimming pools, filtration methods, and many others.

We are entering these subjects on blank cards and inserting references on each subject as we find them. We list,

not only references to books, magazines and pamphlets, but names of cities or departments of cities in which experiments have been or are being tried. For instance, we will note, on the proper card, that Weatherford, Oklahoma, has established a municipal ice plant, that an article in the last issue of the *Municipal Journal* gives the original cost, the cost of production and rate to consumers. Our entry will read something like this: "Ice making. Municipal. Weatherford, Oklahoma. Cost & rate. M. J. v.35, P.114, J1.1913."

Similar notation will be made of the fact that Louisville, Kentucky, estimates that it saved \$20,000 last year by regularly testing its water meters, and that it is assigning a company number to the meters, so that a record of the life and service of each kind of meter may be known and the best type ascertained.

We shall note that San Diego, California, has adopted an ordinance covering the relations between the water department and consumer; that Huntington, Indiana, is using the motor bus instead of the street car; that Sullivan County, Tennessee, is experimenting with trackless trolley cars; that Peoria, Illinois, will be obliged to tear up a portion of her sewer system because the roots of the beautiful North Carolina poplar shade trees have blocked the sewers. Our city forester should be advised that he must be wary of the intrusive Carolina poplar. In the midst of our gropings for improved systems of city government, it will be interesting to note that Staunton, Virginia, is very well satisfied with its new system, in which the mayor and council are retained, but an expert manager is employed to direct the departments and oversee all city improvements.

Illustrations might be continued indefinitely, but those mentioned will sufficiently indicate their character.

The resources of the library may take any form whatsoever; books, reports, magazines, pamphlets, leaflets,

typewritten sheets, pictures, clippings, and even verbal information, given by individuals. It is very important that the librarian learn what indexes are available for municipal reference work. It is also important that bibliographies in books, magazines and elsewhere be carefully noted.

In opening a municipal reference library, the meagerness of the collection, especially in the library of medium size, will be discouragingly evident when measured by the field to be covered. It is impossible to start with a well rounded collection and a full supply of clippings, reports and magazines. Such material must be collected gradually, with considerable effort and expenditure of time and money. Every library has some material applicable to city problems. Start with that. The questions submitted and the most imperative needs of your city will indicate the line of growth. You will do well, indeed, if you can follow the line as rapidly as it is marked out.

Location of the library

For obvious reasons, the municipal reference department should be located in the public library building.

Getting the information to the people

We most heartily endorse the advice given us by one of our local business men. "Remember," he said, "you have to create a demand for your goods." Let the people know you have something they can use. You might have the best reference collection in the United States; it would be useless if people did not know you had it.

Publicity methods will be considered at a later session of this conference. We will therefore emphasize only four points.

1. Establish a reputation for providing adequate material promptly, and never give up a question until you feel certain that you have exhausted every resource—then continue your search.

2. Use the local press freely. As a rule, write your own articles.

3. Keep in personal touch with individuals who are live wires in the community. The busiest people are glad to see you if you can tell them in a brief, clear way what you have of use to them. Know definitely what you wish to say before seeking the interview, and say it as briefly as possible when you have the opportunity. These remarks may seem superfluous, but the importance of the thought is our excuse for making them.

4. Remove from the municipal reference department, so far as possible, every vestige of red tape and rules. Keep paramount the idea that the library exists to serve the city and her citizens.

Indeed, the possibility of unlimited service is the chief attraction of municipal reference work. It is no mean honor to be permitted to assist in solving problems so vitally affecting the life of the community. It is true that the municipal reference library cannot be a leader in civic movements nor an advocate of any special program or propaganda. It can do what is even more effective. It can assemble the best thought and experience of the world on both sides of public questions. In other words, it can make possible the sane, intelligent consideration of every municipal problem, thus softening for its own city the rigorous discipline of that harshest and most expensive of all instructors, initial experience.

ADA M. McCORMICK,

Public library, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

No present movement is more laudable than that which looks to conservation of natural resources. But let us never forget that the greatest inherent resource of the American people is common sense. Let that be conserved and applied without cessation, and soon it will be found that the ills of which we complain but know not of are only such as attend upon the growing pains of a great and blessed country.—George Harvey.

Not a New Book

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Librarians may be interested in the following facts noted in examining the Bird book by Chester A. Reed, B. S. Doubleday, Page & Co., 1915, \$3.00.

Excepting for a few minor changes the text seems to be a literal reprint of the author's North American birds' eggs, Doubleday, Page, 1904. The pictures of eggs seem to be taken from the same source.

The color illustrations in the text are largely reprinted from the author's Bird guide: land birds . . . and his Water birds. A number of color text illustrations and some full page color plates have been added. The color work is not at all up to the standard which it is reasonable to exact in these days and which the publishers of the book under discussion have attained in other of their publications. A specific piece of carelessness in regard to the illustrations may be noted on pages 433 and 434, on which pictures of chickadees and titmice have become interchanged. And, moreover, there appears to be no difference between the two kinds of chickadees figured in one picture, nor again between the two kinds of titmice shown in the other. The latter, by the way, is upside down, which really makes little difference as the picture is reversible.

There is no key included for identifying birds, and no notice anywhere of indebtedness to previous work.

The book is printed on heavy, highly glazed paper for which the binding seems inadequate from the viewpoint of library use.

G. O. WARD.

Cleveland public library.

Selection of Fiction

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In a recent issue of the *Boston Transcript*, Edward J. O'Brien discusses from various standpoints the selection of fiction in the Boston public library.

He calls attention to the fact that 84 novels of reasonable merit were sub-

mitted to *The Nation* for review in the year 1914. He classifies these novels in three divisions, with regard to their permanent literary significance.

In the first, or in the highest section of these novels of permanent literary significance, 22 novels are included. Of this list of 22, the Boston public library has three; the Cleveland public library has 16.

The second section includes 44 novels which he regards as of less permanent literary significance, but which yet are evidently inspired by some noteworthy purpose, and which aim at considerable literary distinction. Of this list of 44, the Boston public library has 13; the Cleveland public library has 35.

He then lists 18 others which he thinks cannot claim admission to either of the other lists, but in which the author reveals some motive other than the manufacture of commercial fiction. These books are not of permanent value, but innocuous and probably justifiable reading for leisure time. Of this list, the Boston public library has 10 and Cleveland 17.

Of the entire list of 84 novels of reasonable merit, Boston has 26, Cleveland has 68.

He gives a list of 10 recent novels which he believes every cultivated man and woman should know, which the Boston public library does not possess. While Boston has none of these, Cleveland has nine.

This comparison is interesting because it indicates the care given to the selection of books at the staff round table meetings at the Cleveland public library, is bringing results. Books added to the Cleveland public library are reviewed largely by members of the staff, but occasionally by others, and the reviews are brought into the staff round table for discussion at the same time the reviews in the leading journals are considered, and the selection is largely based on this discussion.

LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

Cleveland public library.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

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Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Will you help?—For 20 years PUBLIC LIBRARIES has demonstrated with increasing satisfaction to its supporters its contention, made at the beginning despite the vigorous, not to say hostile, claim in some quarters of the utter impossibility of such a thing, that a library periodical could be furnished at a reasonable price within the reach of all library workers and trustees.

The back volumes of PUBLIC LIBRARIES show the best that has been said and done in the library field the world over, not only by eminent men and women, but by the practical, every day library workers in small libraries who are steadily and surely raising not only their own efficiency, but also the general standards of honest, intelligent library service.

Through the pages of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, these have had an opportunity to voice their opinions since 1896 without fear or favor, with the single pur-

pose in the mind of the manager of PUBLIC LIBRARIES that a direct means of communication with the library world everywhere be supplied. That this has been appreciated, there is abundant evidence.

The increased cost of material and the greatly increased cost of production in the past few years has made it impossible to reduce the subscription price of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which has always been just over the margin of deficit. Instead of this reduction in price, there has been and will continue to be an increased effort to meet as fully as possible the demand for a frequent messenger to carry practical help and inspiration to all within the library circle, of whatever degree of equipment and position. The best that can be had of information and encouragement will be sent each month of issue with a message of good cheer for friends and strangers alike. Correspondence on any phase of library work will be courteously and promptly answered, and those in libraries remote from centers of activity are especially invited to communicate with PUBLIC LIBRARIES in regard to contributions, meetings, library technique, positions, salaries or library affairs in general.

With this platform, we ask the help of the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES in extending its list of subscribers and friends. Assistance along this line would be most gratefully received, and a consciousness of it would help both those who give and those who receive.

Improving the service—The Director of the University of Illinois library school has sent out letters to the Illinois libraries and to the Illinois women's clubs, urging the value and neces-

sity of those in charge of the libraries of the state, taking advantage of the summer schools, with the idea of meeting the demand that is growing in Illinois for better library service.

It is a duty that the librarians owe to the work of the state to take advantage of the course that is offered at the university this summer, June 21-July 31.

The demand for increased efficiency in all public service is entering the doors of the public libraries, and those who, in time past, have held their position solely through political, personal or relationship influence, may as well make up their minds that the hour of their departure is not far distant.

There are a number of towns in Illinois of size and influence and development sufficient to have far better library service than they are receiving today. The people of these communities are beginning to make comparisons, and as they see what other libraries are doing, and find the lack in their own, they are justly criticizing conditions and are asking that better service be supplied to their communities.

There is nothing, therefore, that will save the poor librarian from being relegated to the rear, except to cease being a poor librarian, either by study and effort that will bring improvement, or else by translating the handwriting on the wall, and departing without an invitation.

Library boards should grant a leave of absence with salary in every case when an employee of the public library wishes to attend the summer library school. It is an investment which under proper circumstances will return more of value to the library than can possibly be obtained in any other ex-

penditure, unless, indeed, it would be to secure a librarian who is already equipped with the latest and most advanced ideas of library service to the entire community.

Illinois legislation—The bill for increasing the revenue for Illinois libraries has passed second reading in both branches of the legislature, and nothing but lack of attention can hinder its passage now.

Illinois librarians and trustees should make a final appeal to their senators and representatives to support the bill on its third and final reading.

While it is yet today—

—the cares that infest the day
—fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.

is descriptive of the occasion when the mail brings such letters as the following:

This office could not very well prosper without we regularly received a copy of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which we value very highly. I am today sending in a payment of the subscription

W. R. NURSEY.

Just a word to tell you that I think the April PUBLIC LIBRARIES is just about the best thing I've ever seen in a library journal.

I have read and re-read it and passed it on to the staff to do the same.

That's all. I wanted to tell you how much it means to me and am sure all librarians feel the same.

ADA MCCARTHY.

I want to tell you that I have gained much help and inspiration from PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

MARY K. NORTON.

These come to the table of PUBLIC LIBRARIES from time to time and help keep the spirit of endeavor alive in the work that is to be done by arousing a sense of gratefulness for friends, and especially for the friends who express appreciation.

Afterwhile, and one intends

To be kinder to one's friends

is too often the rule of life, while mean-

time days and occasions for the kindness are passing and the good deed is not done.

Frail human nature is so apt to pounce on the weak spots in the equipment of mankind that the following of a good impulse to do the kind act or say the friendly word is one that commends itself to immediate doing.

A. L. A. meeting for 1915—Before PUBLIC LIBRARIES shall have reached the majority of its readers next month, the pre-conference activities of the A. L. A. will have begun. The outline of the program shows some new names as speakers, as well as the usual favorites.

The association is fortunate in the consent of Dr Putnam to speak even "Per Contra," as he always adds grace as well as wisdom to the national meetings.

Few librarians are so well prepared by long years of service and observation to speak advisedly of "The province of the public library" as Mr Bowker and many of those in library service have not heard Mr Bowker except in discussions. Mr Cleland, in "The fine art of printing," will also be a new note which will doubtless be well worth hearing. There is promise also of opportunity to hear Pacific Coast speakers, something refreshing in its novelty to constant attendants of A. L. A.

Doubtless the standing committees will bring in sufficient new material to continue the interest that attaches to their work. The special committees have important matters in hand which will doubtless add to the interest of the occasion. The committee on Revision of the constitution, however, expended so much energy on the "nowhere" report at the Midwinter meeting that there has

been no perceptible sign of activity since then.

The Exposition at San Francisco looms large in the horizon of the meeting, and the hint of the entertainments of the week sounds inviting. The journey to the Pacific Coast and the return is most alluring in its prospects and many are looking forward to it in great pleasure. A poem recited by Dr Hill at Atlantic City meeting gave the following:

It's a long way to California,
In the warm month of May,
But it's worth all it costs to go there,
Just to see the A. L. A.

Mr Wellman is our leader,
When he calls us we'll be there,
But when we get to San Francisco,
We're going to—The Fair.

E. S. Willcox

Erastus Swift Willcox, librarian of the Public library of Peoria, Ill., since 1891, died at his home in Peoria, March 13, as the result of a street car accident.

The body lay in state in the rotunda of the Public library during Saturday morning, where it was viewed by a constantly moving crowd.

P. L. Windsor, librarian of the University of Illinois, attended the funeral as the representative of the Illinois library association.

The directors of the Public library adopted a memorial setting forth the high character of the deceased and the faithfulness with which he had performed the duties of his important office for so many years.

No librarian in Illinois has stood so high in the esteem of his fellow-workers for so long a period as did Mr Willcox.

He was graduated from Knox college at Galesburg, and early became interested in the public library as a means of public education. He drew up the law establishing free public libraries in Illinois in 1872, and it was largely through his personal effort that the statute was

enacted. He was one of the charter members of the Illinois library association, and for many years was a leading spirit in the development of its work. He was long a faithful member of the A. L. A., being 944 on the list.

Mr Willcox came of New England pioneer stock, and while he was born in New York, early came to Illinois with the founders of Knox college, under the direction of Dr George W. Gale, for whom Galesburg was named.

His whole life was devoted to the development of educational facilities for Illinois particularly along library lines. Indeed, he may be called the father of the free library law in the United States, as many of the states copied the idea of the Illinois law in founding public libraries throughout the country.

Mr Willcox was a man of charming personality, with a mind trained to a delight in the higher things. He was kindness itself to anyone who sought his help. Always interested in books, he offered them as a panacea for the ills of life under all circumstances.

Mr Willcox was 85 years old at the time of his death, which rounded out a full life of useful service to his state, his community, and to his fellow men.

Closed vs. Open Associations

A letter from Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, chairman of the round table of library school faculties, under whose encumbancy the permanent organization of the Association of American library schools was formed, says that she feels called on to protest against the criticism that was made in PUBLIC LIBRARIES relating to what was termed the lack of necessity for such a permanent organization.

Miss Rathbone feels that an absolute unanimity of opinion as to confining the membership and attendance to those that are actually facing the pedagogic and administrative problems which the organization proposes to discuss, is sufficient reason for its being. She thinks that in no other way than by closed organization can free

and formal and profitable discussion be insured on these problems.

She thinks that open sessions are not the place for the consideration of such topics as "How the subjects in the library school curriculum should be grouped to conform to a system of college credits," "Methods of revision of class work," "Should trade bibliography form part of the course in book selection or of library economy?"

She asks directly if library school people want to get together to talk about such things, why should any one else object?

Miss Rathbone closes by saying:

Organization along the lines of special interests is the order of the day and is a tendency hardly worth combating. The time will doubtless come when the directors of training and apprentice classes will feel it to their advantage to get together; already they are in correspondence about their own problems, which vary much from library school problems, and after they have met informally several times, they will want an organization, so that the results of their meetings may not be lost. And so it goes and will continue to go. The fear that the central body will be weakened is, it seems to me, quite needless. No one will drop out of the A. L. A. or cease to attend its meetings because of their membership in and attendance upon these subsidiary organizations, while if the professional efficiency of the members of the latter is not increased by them, the special organizations will soon come to an end, busy people will not take time to assemble themselves together unless they feel the need and benefit of so doing.

New Building in Victoria

A note from Librarian Scholefield of the Provincial library of British Columbia states that the new Provincial library will be ready for occupancy within a few weeks.

The building is an impressive looking one, with a stately entrance hall, with reading, reference, study and special collection rooms, and other departments.

The library will move to its new quarters with a collection of approximately 75,000 reference books, covering literature, history, economics, sociology and general reference works.

This library has probably the finest collection relating to the history of North America that is to be found today.

British Columbia is to be congratulated on the appreciation it has shown in providing so handsomely for this splendid collection of books and on the indefatigable energy which Librarian Scholefield devotes to the upbuilding of the library under his charge.

A New Field of Investigation

"Commercial work and training for girls," is the definite title of a new book by Jeannette Eaton and Bertha M. Stevens, both for some time connected with vocational guidance.

With plain facts and figures the book points out the defects in the system of commercial training as it is given in the ordinary business college. The authors made their investigations through applicants for work, through the printed matter of the schools themselves, and through business house employers.

While the field of their observation was Cleveland, the conditions that make for the misfortune of the would-be stenographer and bookkeeper may be found in every city.

It is to be hoped that this book and other expositions of a similar kind will bring the business college under the jurisdiction of some power able to protect the innocent sufferers. This is a book for librarians to "push," particularly among parents where there are private business schools. The investigators found physical conditions in 13 per cent of the places visited unsatisfactory, and make a plea for better investigations. They claim inspectors inspect complaints and not conditions.

You would not permit a vial of poison to remain on your mantelpiece lest it might inadvertently fall into the hands of some member of your household. And will you allow to lie on your table an unclean journal which would instill the poison of sin into the soul?—Cardinal Gibbons.

Book Talk—a Sketch.*

Characters:

Boston Cook Book.

Webster's Dictionary.

The Rosary.

Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.

(Three volumes speak as one.)

Vogue.

Funds & Their Uses.

Playboy of the Western World.

Free Public Lectures (a small pamphlet).

Browning's Poems (pocket edition).

Oxford Book of English Verse.

Thackeray's Book of Snobs.

Innocents Abroad.

(These last three books comprise Miss Mason's Reserve.)

(When the curtain rises, the books are seen standing in a row, Miss Mason's Reserve apart from the others. The actors wear costumes made over light frames in the shape of books. Only their heads show. The backs of the books are towards the audience.)

B. C. B. (sleepily)—Take 3 eggs, separate them, beat the yolks, then add—
(voice trails off into a sleepy murmur).

Webster (lifts head, speaks peevishly)—
Conversing in your slumber once more. Arouse yourself. (Jostles the cook book.)

B. C. B. (lifts head, yawns, looks around)—
Library's closed! Wake up, everybody.

(Books lift heads, face audience, except Miss Mason's Reserve. *Browning's Poems* moves to one side.)

Rosary (talks quickly)—It's an outrage! So many readers! I don't know what to do with them all! There should be a Society for the Repression of Readers! Positively, they tear one to pieces.

Gibbon (pompously)—I rarely find myself disturbed in that manner. I flat-

* (Written for a class day performance at Drexel Institute library school, 1913, by one of the seniors, Miss Beth Clark Rice, of Ontario, Canada. The idea is similar to the one in Mr. Crother's "Convention of books," but Miss Rice had not read Mr. Crother's article when she wrote her play. C. B.)

ter myself my readers are of a more scholarly type.

Vogue (rudely)—Your readers! Have you any?

Funds (regarding Vogue superciliously)—And who is this young person?

Vogue (pertly)—Well, old fogey, I'm the most up-to-date person here, that's who I am.

Funds—Indeed? (*Turns away.*)

Webster—Friends, let us not frivol away our time in useless bickering. Rather let us utilize these moments for some worth while discussion.

Playboy—Hear, hear! I nominate Webbie for chairman.

Books—Make it unanimous! Webbie's elected!

Webster (steps apart from the others)—This is scarcely in order, but since it meets the general approbation I will accept the office. Will the meeting please come to order? Has anyone a suggestion as to the subject to be discussed?

Rosary—Mr Chairman, I suggest a discussion on readers and their care.

Books—Hear! Hear!

Webster—The subject has been stated and is now open for discussion.

F. P. L.—Mr Chairman—

Funds (interrupting)—Point of order. Only books are allowed to take part in this discussion.

F. P. L.—I protest, Mr Chairman.

Webster—Objection overruled. Our young friend, though but a pamphlet now, may be a book some day.

F. P. L.—The first question is—how to classify readers.

B. C. B.—You poor child, don't you know that? They're divided into three classes—skippers, waders, and diggers.

F. P. L.—What do you call that system?

B. C. B.—The obvious method, of course.

Gibbon—I prefer a simpler method, using only two classes, the popular readers and the scholarly readers.

B. C. B.—Put it to a vote. I move we use the obvious method.

Books—Second the motion.

Webster—It has been moved and seconded that we classify by the obvious method. All in favor say aye.

Books—Aye.

Webster—Contrary minded, no.

Gibbon—No.

Webster—The ayes have it.

Rosary—Now that the question of classification is settled, kindly tell me how to handle throngs of clamoring readers. My popularity has persisted beyond all precedent, and I must divide my time fairly.

Playboy—People don't clamor for me that way, though they do fight over me. Why, when I first appeared on the stage there was a positive riot.

Vogue—I solve the problem by presenting myself monthly to my readers in a new dress. Hence I am not worn out by my popularity.

Funds—My function is the instruction of the young in business methods;—and the young do not clamor for instruction. I can scarcely be expected to know how to handle hordes of readers.

Gibbon—Few readers come in personal contact with me; I live largely on my reputation as a classic. Occasionally a scholar seeks me out and we've a nice chat together.

B. C. B.—I believe in intensely personal relations with one's readers. I try to establish intimate relations with each reader. Some of them even think they own me.

F. P. L.—Why doesn't Browning's Poems say something? She has plenty of readers.

(*Books all look at her.*)

Books—What do you do with them?

Browning (lifts head and moves slowly forward, talking in a weary voice)—Dear sisters, I am worn out.

Books—Worn out! What's happened?

Browning—All the lovesick boys and girls, all the engaged couples, take me out to read to each other. It makes me so tired.

Vogue—Poor thing, you look it.

Browning (annoyed)—My dress may not be so stylish as yours, but people love me.

Vogue—Thought you were just objecting to that.

Playboy—Come, come, ladies. Don't quarrel.

F. P. L. (*looking at Miss Mason's Reserve*)—Who are these books that haven't joined us?

Books—Don't you know them? They are MISS MASON'S RESERVE.

F. P. L.—They're reserved all right,—not one word have they said. What are they?

Books (*talking together and interrupting each other*)—Special English reserve—course in—selected by the instructor—required reading—history of literature—

Playboy—Why won't they join us? I'll ask them (*walks to them, bows stiffly*). Won't you take part in our very interesting discussion. We'd all like to know you.

(*The reserve books advance towards the others, saying together*) Allow us to introduce ourselves.

(*They now speak separately.*)

Oxford Book—I am the Oxford book of English verse.

Book of Snobs—I am Thackeray's Book of snobs.

Innocents—I am Mark Twain's Innocents abroad.

Books—We're pleased to meet you.

Webster—We are discussing readers and their care. Have you any suggestions?

Book of Snobs—Most people are such beastly bores. Why bother with them?

Innocents—But after all, where would we be without them?

Oxford Book—And then, it is our mission. To quote the poet Watson, "Let me go forth and share with one wise friend."

Gibbon—Oh, you believe, then, in the appeal to the individual reader?

Browning—You reserved books don't know what torture is. I believe my back's broken.

Book of Snobs—Really, it's a great relief, not being obliged to associate with everyone.

F. P. L.—But what do you do? Does anyone read you?

Innocents—Of course,—we're required reading.

B. C. B.—In which class do you place your readers?

Oxford—Usually they are skippers, rarely they are diggers.

Book of Snobs—They're rather a nuisance during open hours. However, they don't drag us away.

Rosary—I wish I could be reserved.

Playboy—Never mind, you'll outgrow it as you grow older.

F. P. L.—But do you all know that the lecture course is over for the season?

Books—Over, is it? That means the library is closed for the summer.

(*In rapid succession*)

Funds—No more instructing!

Reserve (together)—No more required readers!

Rosary—No more people here!

Webster—No more reference questions!

Gibbon—Peace and silence!

B. C. B.—No more recipes!

Vogue—Nothing to do till next year!

Playboy—Let's celebrate!

Books—But how?

F. P. L.—Why not a dance?

Books—Why not? Good! Let's.

(*Music and a dance. Exeunt.*)

Local Historical Research in One Public Library

The thought of collecting and preserving the early records of Cooke County, Texas, had its conception in a misstatement. I had written a sketch of the county for the commercial club, in which I stated that Gainesville, the county seat, had been named for Colonel Jim Gaines, a highly educated Chickasaw Indian, one of the most prominent and popular characters in the country, who lived in the Indian Territory just north of Cooke county. I had heard this from childhood so made the statement without seeking to verify it.

When the sketch was published, this particular statement was challenged by one of the oldest citizens in the county. He told me that Gainesville had been named for a federal officer, and at the same time gave me other valuable data

about the first settling of the town and county. Then for the first time I realized what a splendid thing it would be for the Gainesville public library to collect and preserve the records of our early history.

A few months later an agent of the American Historical society, working in the interest of Mr Barker and his new history of Texas, visited the library and made use of the meager facts I had collected. This incident confirmed my growing conception that a public library is the logical place for collections of local historical data, and that the librarian is the logical person to direct local research work. However, such work requires the time and efforts of more than one person, if it is to be carried on in any satisfactory or extensive manner.

My first step was to urge upon the strong progressive woman's club, to which I belong, the need for an historical research committee. Such a committee, composed mainly of daughters of our oldest settlers, who would naturally be interested, was at once appointed. The first task which the committee set for itself was that of writing letters to all the old settlers known personally to the members, explaining our purpose and asking their assistance. We began the systematic collection of the names of all old settlers of the county and of other data similar in nature. Already some valuable material has come to light. One find was an old diary, kept by one of the pioneers during his journey from Tennessee to Texas and through twenty years' residence in Cooke County. Another was a collection of short historical sketches published in an old Sunday School magazine. Our chief stay has been the interest and assistance of Mr W. R. Strong, the oldest inhabitant of Cooke County, a broadminded farmer who came from Urbana, Ill., in 1846.

While in Albany, at the summer session of the library school, I was on the alert for ways and means of pushing our research work. The great interest displayed there in local his-

tory naturally reacted on me. I absorbed many valuable suggestions for collecting source material, and for arousing public interest in local historical research work. Historical teas and local history story hours were among the suggestions offered. These are, no doubt, quite effective in New York, but for Texas are quite out of the question.

The committee was in despair until we bethought ourselves of a Texas institution already at our hand. I refer to our old settlers' picnics, which are held in nearly every county generally in August, between the laying by of the crops and the beginning of the cotton picking. They are "all-day-bring-your-dinner" affairs, and everybody goes. With some judgment and planning, these popular gatherings might be the means of creating a widespread interest in local history. This year we had a short talk on the subject and we think that eventually in these meetings we shall find our chief point of contact with our country friends.

Several other ventures met with more or less success. At the request of the historical committee the X L I club offered two prizes of equal amounts to the people of the town and county for the best papers on such subjects as, "Reminiscences of an old settler," "Old trails," "First settling of any locality in the county," "Indian raids," "Incidents of reconstruction," or the later period known locally as the "Cattle men's reign." All winter interest lagged, although the local newspapers advertised our plans widely. However, a few interesting letters from former "old residents" were received. Then we tried the plan of holding weekly meetings at the Public library to which we invited all interested. To these informal meetings only a few responded, but their interest was quickened by the talk together of old times. Then, too, the committee, in attendance with note books, gathered some valuable information. One helpful recruit who joined the ranks at this time was the history teacher in the

high school. She assigned local history topics for class themes. These resulted in two good papers for our collection and in an awakened interest of both parents and children. Finally we took what should have been our first step. We examined the county records and found there a mine of material. Had we gone there first, much fruitless searching for names and facts might have been avoided.

When the lists for our historical contest were closed we had seven papers. These we sent to a former citizen of the town to be judged solely on their historical merit. When the prizes were awarded, two of our newspapers were induced to publish the articles. The interest excited by these essays came as a glad surprise, not only to the historical research committee, but to the editors of the papers as well. The newspapers profited to the extent of a number of new subscriptions, while several voluntary contributions for our research work came to us through the columns.

Now the interest is becoming general. Almost every day some one comes to the Public library to talk the work over with us, and gives us bits of valuable information often without realizing that he has anything of historical value to impart. Thus, one man in speaking of his home village out on the high prairie in the western part of the county, told how it acquired its name. Years ago, he said, there was a child's grave there and over it a pole pen and a wooden headstone, on which was rudely cut the word "Era." People travelling through the country spoke of meeting or of camping at "Era's grave," until it became a well known spot. Finally, he said, when barbed wire and deep wells made it possible permanently to settle this part of the county, Era was located as a post-office, and later became a thriving village. This incident has led to the preparation of an article on county names, which, when published, is expected to stimulate considerable interest.

Although there is always the regret that the work was not commenced ten years earlier, the discouragement over our present slow progress is gradually giving way to a confidence in our ability ultimately to gather together and preserve for the future whatever there is of value about the early days in the county.

LILLIAN GUNTER,
Librarian.

Gainesville, Texas.

A New Key

Fellows, Jennie D. Cataloging rules prepared for the course in elementary cataloging, New York state library school. Albany, 1914. 181 p.

To anyone who is perforce a slave to "exact cataloging," tied down to the minutiae that those two words involve, Miss Fellows' cataloging rules bring a promise of greater freedom for the future. One of the difficulties that every cataloger encounters is the codification of the minor details of spacing, imprint and collation. Many of these fine points are preserved in brain pigeon holes of the oldest cataloger and passed on orally by her to the newest assistant, who by dint of much practice and red ink, finally makes them her own, more or less successfully. Consequently to run across a volume where these minor matters are so skillfully treated in connection with the "weightier matters of the law" is a joy indeed.

The book, which is published as a New York state library bulletin (Library school, No. 36), forms as a matter of fact a supplement to the A. L. A. Rules, and Cutter's Rules for a dictionary catalog, for while these two guides deal more strictly with the basic principles of cataloging and form of entry, Miss Fellows' work, intended as a textbook for an elementary course, is concerned particularly with technique, reference being made to the A. L. A. and Cutter for fuller treatment of special topics. Certain routine directions are only applicable to the library school, but many parts of the text could be wisely adopted as a

standard by the libraries who use manuscript or typewritten cards.

The sample cards are numerous and instructive, supplementing the explanatory text most admirably. A good table of contents and a very complete index (usually imperfect in cataloging rules) complete a work which cannot help relieving many an harassed cataloger from much mental drudgery. I, for one, would like to send a vote of thanks to Miss Fellows for the thoroughness with which she has performed her task.

GERTRUDE FORSTALL.

The John Crerar library, Chicago.

"Uncle Sam's Cook Book"

Bread and bread making. 1910. (Farmers' bulletin 389) 5 cts.

Canned fruits, preserves, and jellies, household methods of preparation corrected to March 25, 1905. (Farmers' bulletin 203) 5 cts.

Canning tomatoes at home and in club work. 1913. (Farmers' bulletin 521) 5 cts.

Canning vegetables in the home. 1909. (Farmers' bulletin 359) 5 cts.

Care of food in the home, corrected to March 25, 1910. (Farmers' bulletin 375) 5 cts.

Cheese and its economical uses in the diet. 1912. (Farmers' bulletin 487) 5 cts.

Corn meal as food and ways of using it. 1914. (Farmers' bulletin 565) 5 cts.

Daily meals of school children. 1909. (U. S. Education, Bureau of. Bulletin no. 3, 1909) 10 cts.

Economical use of meat in the home. 1910. (Farmers' bulletin 391) 5 cts.

Lessons in cooking, theoretical and practical, for sick and convalescent. 1913. (U. S. Government hospital for the insane, Washington, D. C.) 5 cts.

Manual for army bakers. 1910. (U. S. War dept.) Fabrikoid, 35 cts.

Manual for army cooks. 1910. (U. S. War dept.) Fabrikoid, 50 cts.

Mutton and its value in the diet. 1913. (Farmers' bulletin 526) 5 cts.

Nuts and their uses as food. 1908. (Farmers' bulletin 332) 5 cts.

Potatoes and other root crops as food. 1910. (Farmers' bulletin 295) 5 cts.

Poultry as food. Reprint 1909. (Farmers' bulletin 182) 5 cts.

Sugar and its value as food. 1913. (Farmers' bulletin 535) 5 cts.

Use of corn, kafir, and cowpeas in the home. 1913. (Farmers' bulletin 559) 5 cts.

The Berkeley Program

The Berkeley conference program is rapidly taking definite shape and several of the addresses and papers can now be announced with assurance. The committee realize that the waving banners and gilded domes across the bay will exert a powerful pull and that first class "counter-attractions" must be provided over on the University campus. It has not been forgotten, however, that we are confessedly going to the west coast to see the great fair and the committee have tried to leave time for the study of the arts and sciences in the concrete to say nothing of cultivating the acquaintance of that alluring stretch appropriately named "The Zone." The local entertainment committee do not know there is an exposition going on over in San Francisco. At least that is our conclusion after studying over the numerous joy-rides, soirees, Grizzly-peak picnics and such that proverbial California hospitality has planned for our delectation.

But the program. This will not be eclipsed by the other "attractions," as those who go to Berkeley will find out, and after a deal of juggling a schedule has been evolved that will permit us to see not only the things that are lovely, but also to hear those that are of good report.

The first session will be held on Thursday afternoon, June 3rd. Mr Henry W. Kent, secretary of the Metropolitan museum of art, of New York, who, speaking as an old librarian himself at our Washington conference last year, said that we as librarians do not have the love for books that we should have, and that we should cultivate more the love of fine printing and good paper and choice bindings, is going to talk to us at this meeting about this very thing, taking as his topic "The book." We are fortunate to get Mr Kent to cross the continent for this service and we bespeak for him a cordial welcome and a sympathetic hearing. Another New Yorker, Mr T. M. Cleland, an authority on printing and printing types, is also traveling three thousand miles with a message, and he

will deliver at this session an illustrated lecture on "The fine art of printing." "Bulletins and library printing" will be discussed in a paper by Mr Everett R. Perry, of the Los Angeles public library. Perhaps none of us doubt that our reports and bulletins might be served up in a fashion more palatable to the general public. So thinks, at least, "The Librarian" of the Boston *Transcript* in a recent pronouncement.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made to have the evening session on June 3 at the Exposition grounds, going over on special cars and a special ferry. An address of welcome will be given by a high official of the Exposition and President Wellman will deliver his presidential message. Then will follow an informal reception and a chance to get acquainted and renew old friendships.

Friday morning, June 4, Miss May Massee, editor of *A. L. A. Booklist*, will discuss the growing appeal of modern poetry; Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, will speak, taking as his text the curiosity-provoking title "Per contra"; and it is expected that an illustrated lecture will also be given.

The two remaining general sessions will be held on Monday morning, June 7, and Wednesday morning, June 9. "The theory of reference work" will be the subject of a paper by W. W. Bishop, of the Library of Congress; Chalmers Hadley, of the Denver public library, will deliver an illustrated lecture on "New features in library architecture"; George F. Bowerman, of the Public library of the District of Columbia, will speak on "How far should the library aid the peace movement and other propaganda," and R. R. Bowker, editor of the *Library Journal*, will discuss "The province of the public library," and a general discussion will follow. One or two other addresses are being arranged for, including one from a member of the faculty of the University of California.

The affiliated societies and various sections will each with one or two exceptions hold at least one session. The section meetings, however, will not be emphasized as much as usual, on ac-

count of the wish to leave time for visiting the Exposition.

The local committee are hoping to arrange trips to Mt. Tamalpais, a walk up Grizzly Peak, just back of Berkeley, to have a picnic supper and see the sunset, an auto or trolley trip around Oakland and out to Mills college, which has a particularly beautiful campus, and a ball on the Exposition grounds on the evening of Tuesday, June 8, which is officially set apart as "A. L. A. day" at the fair. The conference will adjourn Wednesday noon, June 9, and the post-conference party (or parties) will leave later in the day.

The local committee will conduct an information bureau at A. L. A. headquarters in the University library building during the entire week; a pamphlet on interesting trips with particulars as to cost, how, when, how long, etc., will be distributed; also a leaflet on the exhibits of greatest interest to librarians. Fuller particulars regarding the program will be printed in the *May Bulletin* of the A. L. A.

G. B. U.

The Canadian Rockies

A short bibliography

A note from Miss Betty Sutherland, formerly of the Public library of Ottawa, says:

The last *A. L. A. Bulletin* had a list on California, but no list on the Canadian Rockies. Of course they are not as well traveled as California, but still a list might be of interest to those who are going on the regular trip and will return through the Lake Louise district. I send the following because I know the books are all interesting and authentic.

- Brown, Stewardson, and Schaffer, Mrs Charles. *Alpine flora of the Canadian Rocky mountains*. 1907.
 Burpee, Lawrence J. *Among the Canadian Alps*. 1914.
 Coleman, A. P. *The Canadian Rockies*. 1912.
 Fay, Charles E. *Rocky mountains of Canada*. *Alpina Americana*, No. 2, 1911.
 Green, W. S. *Among the Selkirk glaciers*. 1890.
 Grohman-Baillie, W. A. *Camps in the Rockies*. 1883.
 Henshaw, Julia W. *Mountain wild flowers of America*. 1906.

- Hornaday, W. T., and Phillips, John M. Camp fires in the Canadian Rockies. 1906.
- Outram, James. In the heart of the Canadian Rockies. 1905.
- Palmer, Howard. Mountaineering and exploration in the Selkirks. 1914.
- Schaffer, Mary T. S. Old Indian trails. 1911.
- Sherzer, W. H. Glaciers of the Canadian Rockies or Selkirks. *Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*. 1907.
- Stutfield, H. E. M., and Collic, J. N. Climbs and explorations in the Canadian Rockies. 1903.
- Walcott, Charles D. The monarch of the Canadian Rockies. *National Geographic Magazine*. May, 1913.
- Wheeler, A. O. The Selkirk range. 1905.
- Wheeler, A. O., and Parker, Elizabeth. The Selkirk mountains, a guide for mountain pilgrims and climbers. 1911.
- Wilcox, W. D. The Rockies of Canada. 1909.
- Wilcox, W. D. Guide book to the Lake Louise region. 1909.

Ontario Library Association Annual meeting

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Ontario library association was held, as usual, on Easter Monday and Tuesday, in Toronto, the rooms of the Public library being placed at the disposal of the association. In attendance and interest the meetings established a new record, although this has grown to be quite the custom in the past few years.

The Monday morning session was given over to the annual reports of the standing committees and the officers. These were full of encouragement, and, in some particulars, notes of further progress were indicated. The King's Printer, for example, is co-operating with the Committee on public documents to secure a more efficient distribution of government publications. The *Quarterly Selected List of Books* was duly issued throughout the year, Part 3 being a bibliography of Canadian fiction, Canadian poetry, Canadian biography and Canadian magazines. This number has been especially commended. The library institutes, 15 in number, were very successful, and the library workers, both trustees and librarians, throughout the Province, who are being educated in better methods, form a constantly increasing group. One of the distin-

guishing features of the work of the Ontario library association has been this library educational movement among trustees as well as librarians. The work of the Technical Education committee received considerable attention and promises to develop very favorably during the coming year. The report of the Free library for the blind was full of suggestive information about the fine work that has been done for the blind of Canada. The report of the secretary noted progress in all departments throughout the year, and the treasurer's report was satisfactory.

In the afternoon session the president, W. O. Carson, chief librarian of the Public library, London, discussed "The Canadian public library as a social force." He was followed by Clarence M. Warner, president of the Ontario Historical association, Napanee, who dealt with "The Canadian public library and the local historical society." The third paper in the afternoon, on "The Canadian library's opportunities for encouraging the reading of Canadian authors," was by Miss Mary S. Saxe, of the Public library, Westmount, Quebec. The evening address was given by Peter McArthur on "Canadian country folk and rural libraries," and on Tuesday morning Miss Adeline Cartwright, children's librarian, Dovecourt branch of the Toronto public library, discussed "Children's literature, from the Canadian point of view."

It will thus be observed that all these papers centred round the chief topic "Canadiana," and the subjects were treated by Canadians (inasmuch as Miss Saxe is now claimed by her Canadian friends as a Canadian citizen). All of these papers pointed out the value of the national point of view in library activities. Mr Carson's plea was that the library was a great centre for the development of social efficiency. Mr Warner maintained that the accumulation of local history records and the stimulation of interest in national history on the part of the library were two activities of highest impor-

tance. Miss Saxe and Miss Cartwright gave many instances of both authors and types of literature in Canada which our libraries ought to possess and to circulate. Mr McArthur's address was a masterpiece of humor, insight into character, and knowledge of libraries and people, treated in the most felicitous fashion and shot through with flashes of keen wit. The large audience showed its appreciation of Mr McArthur's address by the most unstinted applause.

Two very practical topics were dealt with (a) by Mary J. L. Black, of Fort William, in her paper on "Town survey: In theory and in practice," and (b) by Andrew Denholm, of Blenheim, in his presentation of the problem of "Rural and village libraries." Miss Black's study of the population of Fort William, with its 29 different races, and their relationship to the library, was a masterful summary of an enormous amount of patient investigation. Mr Denholm's contention was that Ontario could not be said to have solved the library problem until the people in the rural and remote districts were supplied with relatively as adequate facilities as the people in towns and cities. The vigorous discussion following his paper demonstrated the importance of this problem and the interest aroused, and it was, finally, referred to the Executive Committee to present a report next year on some possible solution of this great problem.

The informal reception on Monday evening was, as usual, a delightful event. The attendance was the largest in the history of the association, about 200 having registered. The display made by the booksellers was greatly appreciated.

The officers for the coming year, 1915-1916, are as follows:

President: David Williams, Public library, Collingwood.

First vice-president: George H. Locke, M. A., Public library, Toronto.

Second vice-president: Miss Mary

J. L. Black, Public library, Fort William.

Secretary-treasurer, E. A. Hardy, B. A., D. Paed, 81 Collier Street, Toronto.

Councilors: D. M. Grant, B. A., Sarnia; W. J. Sykes, B. A., Ottawa; F. P. Gavin, B. A., Windsor; W. H. Murch, St. Thomas; Miss Carrie Bantey, Hamilton; W. O. Carson, ex-president, London.

Atlantic City Meeting.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association was held at Atlantic City, March 5 and 6.

There was an attendance of 250, 20 being registered from states other than those interested. The American Library Institute held a meeting on Friday afternoon and this, with the proximity of New York libraries, brought into the gathering a number of members who represent various library interests other than those which made the occasion for the meeting, so that the company had something the aspect of a national gathering in the representation present.

Doubtless a goodly number were led to attend the meeting at Atlantic City on the prospect of the battle of wits between the two well known entertainers, Miss Van Valkenburgh, and Miss Bacon, lately director of the Drexel Institute library school. The question for debate was stated as: "Resolved: that the present tendency of the library is to help the public into a state of helplessness."

This opened the meeting on Friday afternoon.

Miss Bacon spoke for the affirmative side of the question in part as follows:

Beginning with a catalog of the virtues and mental equipment of an ideal assistant who eagerly seeks to do for a reader what some readers wish to do for themselves, and what more of them ought to do for themselves, it was shown by apt illustrations that the method of pouring information into readers rather than rousing a desire to

pursue clues for the sake of the game, might easily lead to the creation of an automatic library. A description was given of a library of the future fitted up with booths similar to telephone booths with sound proof walls, with victrolas instead of telephones and with records so abundant that inquirers need only be directed to the proper booth with the correct number for records for the desired information. The usual argument in favor of the librarian doing the work, rather than teaching how to do the work, is the lack of time and of assistants in most libraries; more time is required for the first lesson than can ordinarily be given. Most harmful of all are the results of this method in work with children who should receive instruction at the earliest time and who should be safe-guarded from search for subjects beyond their grasp. The remedy lies in instruction in the use of the catalog and of books to be given in school. The results of this so-called ideal method of help were summarized as irritating to those who do not want to be helped, as making scrap baskets of minds that should be dynamos, and as a failure in the development of mental muscle of children unless systematic instruction is given.

Miss Van Valkenburgh, of the New York Public library training school, presented the negative side of the discussion. Presupposing that it is the duty of the librarian to help every one who asks, Miss Van Valkenburgh questioned, "Shall we reduce them to a state of helplessness by our ill-timed efforts, or finding them in that unfortunate condition, do we, by our aid, leave them in a state where they may help themselves?" The public is divided into three classes; those who know what they want and get it; those who do not know what they want and expect you to get it; those who for some reason lack maturity and must be helped temporarily. In the first class are the mature and experienced people for whom prompt help and well selected information should be fur-

nished. The second class, unfortunately rather large, may sometimes be turned into useful and self-reliant citizens, but must usually be submitted to severe treatment. The third class, the immature children needing help because of youth, the foreigner unacquainted with our language and our ways, the uneducated whose training must be supplemented, these are clearly all capable of self help after instruction and encouragement. Present phases of library work, children's rooms, traveling libraries, open shelves, story telling, work with schools, formerly strongly opposed by librarians on the ground that they would do so much for people they would not be appreciated—these things are essentially to develop self help.

Following these statements for the pro and con of the question the chair invited general discussion. The responses were numerous and generally of a lively disagreement with the affirmative of the question. Considerable emphasis was placed upon question of the cost of this service given by librarians so freely, and upon practical difficulties of supplying assistants to help those who need it and of giving instruction to those who should learn to help themselves. Time for rebuttal was given to the debaters who very cleverly cited incidents to maintain their arguments, but mutually agreed that both were correct and circumstances and judgment must dictate the form of service rendered.

On Friday evening, after the usual preliminaries of welcome, Dr W. Dawson Johnston, of the Public library of St. Paul, Minn., gave an address on "What a public library can learn from a college library and what a college library can learn from a public library."

In his address Dr Johnston spoke in a humorous manner of some of the problems peculiar to the college and university library. The most important lessons to be learned from the university, he said, were (1) the importance of having libraries administered by librarians rather than by historians,

philologists, or others, (2) the desirability of securing experts in the selection of books.

College library collections, he said, are much more valuable than public library collections, because they are selected by experts.

"The librarian should associate with himself a strong body of expert literary advisors. They will not only guarantee a better selection of books, but will also promote their use, particularly in those cases where they represent a literary or scientific society or some department of instruction in an educational institution."

"In fine," he concluded, "when the university recognizes the need of an expert as librarian and the public library recognizes the need of experts in the selection and distribution of its books college libraries will be as useful as they are valuable and public libraries as valuable as they are useful."

Another strong attraction to many in the meeting at Atlantic City was the lecture by Dr Samuel McChord Crothers, on "A literary clinic."

In his inimitable way, Dr Crothers pictured his gentle physician, a healer of those who came to him in distress, through the prescription of chapters or verses or books as sedatives, irritants, stimulants and the like.

It is almost impossible to share with others anything of the deliciousness of Dr Crothers' lectures, his manner of presentation is quite as great a factor as what he says.

Mr Montgomery presided at the session on Saturday morning and announced that he had prepared a library code for presentation to the legislature for the purpose of legalizing some uniform system for the maintenance of free public libraries in Pennsylvania. At present, there is no general law on the subject that is satisfactory, and the result is less so. The meeting heartily commended the proposal of Mr Montgomery.

Mr Stewart Culin, of the Brooklyn Institute museum, gave an able and

enjoyable lecture on "Book collecting in India and the Far East." The audience listened with evident appreciation to Mr Culin's modest account of his experience in second hand book shops in the Orient. (See page 195.)

Mr Edward J. Cattell, statistician of Philadelphia, followed with a lively account of the delusions and snares of statistics. He also showed that clear and indisputable results may be arrived at, and that the science of statistics as now applied to social and civic matters is of the greatest value.

While a spirit of good fellowship prevailed throughout the entire time, business was strictly attended to by those who had the business in charge. The New Jersey meetings were cared for in a most effective and dignified manner, by Mr Hughes, librarian of the Trenton public library, who, though a young man, gives promise of future usefulness in library affairs, as well as his own advancement. The Pennsylvania duties were assumed by well-known leaders in that state.

The special committees appointed to attend to the various duties incident to such a meeting reported on time, and carried out the plans and purpose of their appointment.

The officers elected for the New Jersey association were: President, Miss Margaret McVety, Newark; first vice-president, William C. Bamford, Belmar; second vice-president, Alvaretta P. Abbott, Atlantic City; secretary, Norma Bennett, Madison; treasurer, Mary J. Peters, Bayonne.

The Atlantic City public library extended the usual hospitalities, which were fully appreciated.

The last session of the conference, Saturday night, was presided over by Mr Harrison W. Craver, of Pittsburgh.

Clinton Rogers Woodruff, secretary of the Municipal Reform League, lectured on "The correlation of municipal information."

He called attention to the publications of the various legislative reference bureaus connected with the state libraries. He also cited the reports

and publications issued by the state and city public service commissions, commercial clubs, and various kinds of commissions, national societies and publications on topics of the day.

Five years ago the American people were perishing for lack of information concerning public affairs. Today they are face to face with the problem of co-ordinating the great mass of information which has been developed as a result of the new American civic spirit. There is no place in the United States where one can feel sure that he will find either all the publications of the last fifteen years on the subject, or all the references.

The great department of agriculture at Washington correlates the work for the rural districts of the country, and for the agriculturists. There should be a similar bureau or department for the cities. The law of procedure is the creation of a Federal bureau or department to correlate the work of the other bureaus or departments, they in turn to be in touch with municipal reference library, the inquiry to go to the municipal reference library, from there to the state, and if necessary, from there to the bureau or department. Mr Woodruff had with him a great quantity of material illustrating his subject, most of which was a revelation to many of the librarians present.

The closing lecture, by Dr John Erskine, of Columbia university, on "The second and third reading," was a plea for the leisurely, reflective, speculative reading of those books which provide for mental processes and which leave the reader satisfied, happier and wiser.

The usual social features of dinners and dances added to the enjoyment of the meeting.

One of the surest keys to success lies in thoroughness. No matter how great may be the enterprise undertaken, a regard for the small things is necessary. Just as the little courtesies of everyday life make life worth the living, so the little details form the bone and sinew of a great success.

Librarians and Teachers in Conference

The discussions of the twenty-seventh annual Conference of the academies and high schools in relations with the University of Chicago, on Friday afternoon, April 16, centered around the value of organized library work to the school.

A general session was held at two o'clock in Mandel Hall, at which addresses were made by Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, of St. Louis, on "School libraries and mental training," and by Matthew S. Dudgeon, secretary of the Wisconsin free library commission, on "Getting the most out of books."

At the close of these addresses, there were departmental conferences held in various buildings on the campus. The chairman of each division was a teacher interested in the subject on which the conference hinged, while the secretary of the meeting was a librarian.

The departments of art, biology, commercial education, earth science, English, French, German, Greek and Latin, history, home economics, manual training, mathematics, physics and chemistry, physical education and public speaking, each had their group of speakers who presented the value of the library in relation to the teaching of the subject.

These subjects were presented from two sides, that of the needs of the teachers, and then, from the side of the librarian in her efforts to meet those needs, expressed or understood, of the teaching force in these various subjects.

The meetings were well attended. The interest and enthusiasm were general, and it is safe to say that the place of the library in the scheme of education received recognition from the teachers to a degree not often accorded it.

Some of the librarians and the departments in which they were active were as follows: Art, S. Louise Mitchell, Ryerson library; Henry E. Legler, Chicago public library; Biology, Adah Whitcomb, Hiram Kelly branch; Bertha Carter, Oak Park high school;

Commercial education, Julia E. Elliott; Earth science, Hannah Logasa, University high school; English, Mabel Fletcher, High school, Decatur; French, Cornelia Wyse, Chicago public library; German, Carl B. Roden, Chicago public library, Charles McLenegan, Milwaukee public library; Greek and Latin, Clara G. Sullivan, High school, Cicero; History, Dr W. D. Johnston, St. Paul public library, Caroline McIlvaine, Chicago historical library, A. F. Barnard, University high school library; Home economics, Renee B. Stern, Chicago school of civics and philanthropy, Mary J. Booth, State normal school library, Charleston, May Massee; Manual arts, Janet Green, Lewis institute, George B. Utley, A. L. A. headquarters, Samuel H. Ranck, Grand Rapids public library; Physics and chemistry, Louis J. Bailey, Gary public library, Charlotte Foy, John Crerar library, Edward D. Tweedell, John Crerar library; Physical education, H. L. Dickey, Chicago normal college, James C. M. Hanson, University of Chicago library; Public speaking, Faith Smith, Chicago public library.

The discussions were entirely related to school work, being the application of the fundamentals of library method to the problems of the school. It is to be earnestly hoped that a full account of the points covered will appear in many of the teachers journals.

A large share of the credit for the occasion belongs to Miss Irene Warren of the School of Education, University of Chicago, through whose indefatigable efforts the excellent arrangements and carrying out of the plans were accomplished.

New York Library Week

The New York library association will enjoy its annual library meeting, September 27-October 2, 1915, at Squirrel Inn, in picturesque Twilight Park, in the Kaaterskill mountains.

In a preliminary announcement, the president, Miss Underhill of Utica,

urges a large attendance from all parts of the state in this attractive spot, which combines beauty with convenience of location, to celebrate the quarter-centennial of the association by the largest meeting that has been held.

Two hotels together, the Squirrel Inn and the Santa Cruz Inn, will accommodate the guests at \$2.50 a day or \$14 a week. Special rates will be allowed to groups in the same quarters.

An effort is being made to secure speakers outside the library profession who will give their opinions and suggestions as to whether the library is in reality an educational and unique asset in the life of its community.

Round tables with illustrative material will discuss more technical questions, led by the State library visitors and organizers.

Members of the association are asked to send to the president suggestions for the program that will increase the value of the discussions.

Miss Underhill calls attention to the fact that there are 550 registered libraries in New York State, with about 3,500 trustees and approximately as many other library workers. This meeting offers the only opportunity for conference on matters in which all are interested. Full information regarding programs, routes, connections and rates will be announced later.

Conference of English Teachers and Librarians

On Saturday morning, May 8, at 10, in the library of the Girls' high school, Halsey street and Nostrand avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., there will be held a conference of English teachers and librarians to discuss the subject "The library as an aid to English teaching."

Among the English teachers who expect to be present and take part in this discussion are the following:

Franklin T. Baker, Columbia university, New York.

Alfred M. Hitchcock, Hartford high school, Hartford, Conn.

Sarah E. Simons, Central high school, Washington, D. C.

Edwin Fairley, Jamaica high school, Jamaica, N. Y.

Benjamin A. Heydrick, High school of commerce, New York.

The following topics will be discussed:

1. Necessary library equipment for modern English teaching,—books, periodicals, clippings, illustrative material, bulletin boards, etc.
2. What the librarian can do in organizing this material.
3. Possibilities of a library classroom equipped with lantern, victrola, small stage for acting plays, etc.
4. Relation of the library to different phases of English work today.
 - a. Oral English. Debating. Public speaking.
 - b. Dramatization. What modern plays should the school library contain?
 - c. Cultivating a taste for good reading through the study of the best standard and contemporary literature.
 - d. Vocational guidance through English composition.
5. Importance of definite instruction of students in the use of books and library aids, card catalog, indexes, reference books, etc.
6. Co-operation between school library and public library.
7. Encouraging the ownership of books.

There will be an exhibit of illustrated editions of books for high school students and it is hoped that Miss Margaret Coult, head of the English department of the Barringer high school, Newark, N. J., will tell of the use of clippings and pictures in her English work and illustrate her talk with examples from the Newark public library. The exhibit of clippings, pictures, illustrated editions, etc., at the National Council of English teachers at Chicago, November, 1914, will be duplicated as far as possible.

All interested are cordially invited to attend.

N. E. A. Library Congress

August 24 will be library day at the N. E. A. at Oakland, Cal. Special programs for three sessions will be provided.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The Chicago library club met April 8 at the Lewis institute. Professor Edwin H. Lewis of the department of English at the institute gave the address of the evening, his subject being "William Vaughn Moody."

Professor Lewis spoke particularly of the Promethean legend as treated by Mr Moody in his trilogy. The first two parts, "The fire bringer" and "The masque of judgment," were completed at the time of Mr Moody's death; but the third part, which was to be the "Story of Eve," was never finished. Mr Lewis showed in what manner Mr Moody differed from other writers in the treatment of the legend and laid much stress on the modernity of his method and the beauty of his poetry.

The president, Miss Louise B. Krause, appointed a committee, Messrs. Barr, Carlton, Dodd, Hanson and Legler, to confer with the library committee of the Chicago Woman's club, of which Miss Ahern is chairman, to consider the advisability of making a bibliography of historical material contained in private collections in Chicago. The club appropriated \$25 toward defraying the expenses of the A. L. A. exhibit at the Panama Exposition, after a short speech from Mr G. B. Utley.

Iowa—The Library club of Iowa City has been discussing the various phases of library work for the community. The subject for the March meeting was "What the library should do for its municipal departments and business men," and the paper was read by Mr James Hodgson. The paper for the April meeting took up the question of "The library and rural extension," and was read by the president of the club, Miss Helen McRaith. The subject of the paper for the May meeting is "Vocational education," and Professor E. E. Lewis of the State university will be the speaker. These papers have covered a wide field in an interesting manner and have been sup-

plemented with book reviews and library news.

RUTH GALLAHER,
Secretary.

New Jersey—The high school librarians of New Jersey, by invitation of Miss Elizabeth White, met at the Passaic high school library March 13, and formed the New Jersey school librarians association.

In addition to developing efficient administration of school libraries, the association will be at the service of the New Jersey library commission to help plan and carry out work which may seem in their judgment suitable for school libraries.

One part of this work will be a school exhibit to be held at Asbury Park in June. The exhibit will be patterned after the exhibit held at the A. L. A. in Washington last year. Though it may be smaller and less pretentious, it will show ways of doing successful work in high school libraries.

There will be a meeting of school libraries held in connection with the library school at Asbury Park, and it is hoped that the interest of school officers other than librarians may be secured.

The officers of the association are: President, Elizabeth White, Passaic; vice-president, Mrs Fagan, Jersey City; secretary and treasurer, Dorothy Kent; South Side high school, Newark.

North Carolina—The North Carolina library association held its ninth annual meeting April 1-2 at Raleigh.

The first session was devoted to association business. Reports of officers and committees were made, and the following officers elected:

President, Miss Mary B. Palmer, Charlotte; first vice-president, Miss Nan Strudwick, Chapel Hill; second vice-president, Miss Eva E. Malone, Durham; secretary, Miss Carrie Broughton, Raleigh; treasurer, Mrs A. F. Griggs, Durham.

Two minute reports from librarians present brought encouraging news of library progress in the state.

After the session, the visitors were taken for an automobile ride and were shown the various institutions and points of interest in the city.

On Thursday evening, the evening session was held at Meredith college.

This session was featured by the address of Mrs Edna Lyman Scott on "The listening child." She spoke with her usual effective simplicity of the importance of storytelling and its place in the public library and in the life of the nation. The revival of storytelling in this country started with the coming from England of Miss Mary Shedlock to lecture to the kindergarten teachers of New York City. It spread to schools, playgrounds and libraries. Mrs Scott believes that sometimes children should be told stories "just for fun," and related the development in interest and imagination of a group of mill children to whom she told such stories. At the close of her lecture, she told three stories to the great delight of her hearers.

On Friday morning, the association met in two sections for round-table discussion of the problems of public and college libraries.

The college librarians discussed Discipline in the college library; Problems of cataloging in the college library; Reference work in the college library; Library life at Davidson college was attractively described by Miss Shaw, librarian.

Rural extension; State publications; Essentials in children's work and Local history collections, were the problems considered by the librarians in the public library section.

At the last session, held Friday afternoon, Mrs A. F. Griggs presented an annotated list of reference books of 1914.

Miss Nan Strudwick reviewed briefly three books that tend to idealize country life and rural vocations. These were "A woman rice planter," by Patience Pennington; "The bend in the road," by Truman DeWeese, and "The friendly road," by David Grayson.

Books for the country school teach-

er's own library were suggested by Miss Edith Royster. To aid in direct class room instruction, she should have Gayley's *Classic myths*, textbooks, a good dictionary.

For broader school work, a rural teacher should own Eleanor Smith's "The common school book of vocal music," Bancroft's "Plays and games," or Johnson's "What to do at recess," and Fanny E. Coe's *First and Second books for the storyteller*. She should use also the Bible for Christmas stories, Hofer's "Legends of the Christ Child," and Grimm's *Fairy tales*. Kinne and Cooley's "Foods and household management," would be a most useful addition.

The country school teacher should have books for personal refreshment and inspiration. These may include a volume or two of Burns or Wordsworth, and the Bible.

To aid in professional and scholastic growth the teacher should have Smith's "What can literature do for me?" Curtis' "Education through play" and Cumberley's "Rural life and education."

Miss Royster recommended that the teacher subscribe for one good newspaper, a magazine such as the *Review of Reviews*, *Literary Digest* or *Current Opinion*, also a good professional magazine such as *School News*.

The executive committee reported the re-election of Dr Louis R. Wilson as a member of the North Carolina library commission.

The meeting was one of the best ever held in the state, both in point of attendance and interest.

MARY B. PALMER.

Coming Meetings

The Oklahoma library association will hold its annual meeting in Oklahoma City May 5-6.

A round table on "When and how should the use of the library be taught in the schools," will be a feature.

The legislative committee of the Federation of woman's clubs will report on the fate of the library commission bill.

The sixth annual conference of the Northwest library association will be held at Salem, Ore., May 31-June 1. At the close of the meeting delegates may leave in time to arrive in San Francisco the morning of June 3. Librarians who are traveling to the A. L. A. by the Northern route are cordially invited to attend.

The annual meeting of the Iowa library association will be held the second week in October at the Hotel Colfax, a country resort, 24 miles east of Des Moines. Programs will be sent out later.

The Missouri library association will hold its annual meeting at Joplin, Mo., October 20-22, 1915. A session will probably be scheduled at Carthage with a stop-over at Webb City.

The Indiana library association will meet in Gary, November 10 and 11, 1915.

Survey of Los Angeles Libraries —Recommendations

The *Municipal League Bulletin* for March, 1915, contains a survey of library facilities in Los Angeles. The data was prepared by Helen E. Haines and Margaret W. Brown as a sub-committee.

Upon the presentation of this sub-committee, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) That in any revision of the city charter, the public library be allowed an independent board of trustees.
- 2) That the public library be empowered to arrange with the city school authorities for the maintenance of city school libraries and for the extension of the branch library facilities in school buildings.
- 3) That the city appropriation for public library maintenance be increased.
- 4) That final decision in the selection of branch library sites be given by the public library board.
- 5) That special assessments to defray cost of library sites be abolished.
- 6) That early selection be made of a permanent site for a public library building.

The report on the library facilities has been reprinted by the Los Angeles public library.

Interesting Things in Print

"Noted women of the nineteenth century" is a list published by the Detroit public library.

A most interesting and illuminating description of the work of the Indianapolis public library, with illustrations, was given in the *Indianapolis News*, April 10.

A reprint of the papers on the Imperial public library of St. Petersburg, which appeared in recent numbers of the *Library Journal*, has been issued by T. W. Koch, of the University of Michigan.

The Committee on relations between the schools and libraries of Providence, R. I., has issued four lists, "Some interesting books," for grades one to four, inclusive, and separate lists from the grades from five to eight.

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has issued a selected list of illustrated editions of children's books. The annotations give both description and characterization. The list is classified.

The Massachusetts agricultural college has issued library leaflets containing selected lists of references for fruit growers; good guides for young gardeners; and some good books for farm women.

The New York public library has issued a catalog of music for the blind. This includes not only music printed in the Braille notation, but books about music printed in American and European Braille and the American point notation.

By a typographical error, the statement was made here recently that the *Single Tax Index*, issued by Mr. Crosmann, of San Francisco, contained 200 titles. The statement should have been made that there were more than 2,000 titles, probably 2,500 entries, both references and cross-references.

The library of the Bureau of railway economics, (Washington City), has issued a list of references on grade crossings, a subject of wide interest throughout the United States. The

references are taken mostly from periodical literature and reports of commissions.

The Bureau of mines in Washington has issued bulletins on "Smelting of copper ores in the electric furnace;" "Houses for mining towns;" "Abstracts of current decisions on mines and mining, 1914;" "Technical papers on coal tar products;" "The possibilities of coal tar products, relating to their manufacture in the United States;" "The effect of the European war on the ceramic industries of the United States."

A new and revised edition of "Graded list of stories for reading aloud," compiled by Harriot E. Hassler and Carrie E. Scott, has been issued by the A. L. A. Publishing Board, also three additional preprints of the Manual of library economy. These are: Government documents (state and city), and The state library, by J. I. Wyer; Book selection, Elva L. Bascom. All these are for sale at A. L. A. headquarters.

The *Normal Bulletin* of the State normal school at Winona, Minn., for November, 1914, contains a most interesting collection of material on library equipment for teaching history in Minnesota high schools. Lists of books and how to use them to bring out certain results in teaching history, makes an interesting presentation of the subject. COR

The American Bureau of Public Speaking has issued an up-to-date book of biographies, "Famous living Americans." It includes 43 men and women whose biographies have been prepared by those personally acquainted with the people of whom they write. The information given is of an interesting kind, particularly for young people's departments. The object of the book is to call attention to the work of preparation of biographical speeches by high school and college students, and is the sort of information that is generally sought in the general reference rooms of libraries.

"A popular history of Mexico," has been written by the veteran historian, Hubert Howe Bancroft, who is, perhaps, the best prepared of any man in the country to produce such a work. With the sympathy that comes from an understanding of the people, with the trained historian's mind and with a definite audience in view, the author of the "Popular history of Mexico," has written a most interesting story of Mexico and its people from the earliest known time down to the present day. The present perplexing problem is more understandable as one learns of these people, without a race, religion or history that stands out definitely as a concrete thing.

Reference Bulletin, published by the Index Office (incorporated), Chicago, No. 1, Vol. 1, appears in April.

This bulletin will be issued quarterly, as a medium of communication between the members, and each number will contain bibliographies or indexes of timely historical interest.

A. G. S. Josephson, John Crerar library, Chicago, is the leading spirit in the enterprise, and Dr Bayard Holmes, Winfred D. Gerber, Carl B. Roden and George B. Utley are named as trustees.

A curious thing is that the subscription price will depend on the number of subscriptions received before the publication of the next number.

No. 2 of Vol. 1 of *The Leaflet*, published monthly by the "Friends of Our Native Landscape" from Chicago, is most inspiring, with a breath of spring in every line of its four pages.

Here is something that tired people may read in the passing moment of rest, with a large degree of pleasure, not the least part of which comes from the feeling that it contains no extended dissertations, but simply a whiff of the woodland in passing, to add cheer during the next period of stress.

Libraries might well have a collection of *The Leaflet* on their counters for distribution, thereby earning the gratitude of all "friends of native landscape."

Library Schools

California state library

The *News Notes of California Libraries* for January contains a full announcement of the library school which has just finished its first year's work in the California State library. The new term opened January 5 and will close June 25, 1915.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Training school for children's librarians

The Training school opened April 7 for the Spring term after a recess of five days.

During March and the early part of April the school had the privilege of hearing the following special lecturers:

Miss Mary E. Ahern, The fashioning of a librarian.

Miss Caroline M. Hewins, A child and her books, and Books of games and sports for children.

Miss Anna A. MacDonald, Work of the Pennsylvania library commission.

Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, Present-day cataloging, and Nursery rhymes.

Miss Josephine Rathbone, Fiction, Reference work.

Miss Lutie E. Stearns, The meaning and purposes of librarianship, The place of the library in a social survey, The children's librarian, and War and peace.

Miss Carrie E. Scott, assistant organizer of the Indiana library commission, gave a course of six lectures on the Administration of small libraries, April 8-15. The lectures were supplemented by an exhibit illustrating present day methods of advertising. Four problems were required in connection with the course.

Edith Louise Smith, '11, resigned her position as children's librarian of the Wylie Avenue branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to accept the position of children's librarian at the Red Hook branch of the Brooklyn public library.

Phebe Pomeroy, '12, assistant children's librarian of the Central children's room, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, has been appointed children's librarian of the Wylie Avenue branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth English, '14, has been ap-

pointed children's librarian on the staff of the Brooklyn public library.

Edna Whiteman, special student 1903-04, and instructor in story-telling and supervisor of story-telling, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has given, for the third year, a course in story-telling in the University of Pittsburgh school of education during the Winter and Spring terms.

Margaret Carnegie, '15, will give the course in story-telling in the School of education during the Summer term.

Drexel institute

The annual Atlantic City dinner of the Drexel Institute library school association was given at the Hotel Chelsea, Saturday evening, March 6, 1915.

Twenty-four members of the association were present and they had as their guests Miss Corinne Bacon, Robert P. Bliss, Miss June R. Donnelly, John Erskine, Frederick W. Faxon, Howard L. Hughes and Dr Theodore W. Koch.

After the dinner a brief business meeting was held in the Red Room.

Following are the members present at the dinner:

Alvarette P. Abbot, Susie E. Black, Elizabeth V. Clark, Martha L. Coplin, Cordelia B. Hodge, Anna R. Dougherty, Mary P. Farr, Edith Fulton, Helen A. Ganser, Sarah E. Goding, Emma L. Hellings, Helen S. Johnston, R. Louise Keller, Caroline B. Perkins, Marian Price, Flora B. Roberts, Helen E. Rockwell, Katharine B. Rogers, Helen R. Shoemaker, Rose G. Stewart, Helen D. Subers, Mildred Subers and Florence E. Wheeler.

New York public library

The spring term opened April 5, with all students present. The visit to other cities during the spring vacation was waived this year, owing to circumstances which made it difficult for many students to take part in the trip. Those who wished to go as individuals were supplied with cards of introduction and reported profitable visits. Fifteen of the junior class who remained in town assisted in receiving the party from the New York State library school, who were entertained at luncheon on March 30.

Senior lectures from March 4 to date have been as follows:

School and college library course and Advanced reference and cataloging course:

Theophile E. Comba. Technical Italian (through March).

Elizabeth C. Stevens. Binding processes, papers, etc.

Administration course:

Charlotte E. Wallace. Library schedules.

Mary K. Simkhovitch. Settlement work for adults.

Corinne Bacon. Book-selection (lectures two to four and test).

Caroline M. Hewins. A child and her books.

Reports on settlements visited.

Children's librarians' course:

Corinne Bacon. Book-selection (lectures two to four and test).

Anna C. Tyler. Picture bulletins.

Caroline M. Hewins. A child and her books.

Anna C. Tyler. Boys' and girls' clubs in libraries.

Visits to local children's libraries.

The Juniors during March listened to the following lectures:

Edward F. Stevens. Copyright; Net prices; Book-buying (three lectures).

Theophile E. Comba. Italian literature (two lectures).

Annie C. Moore. Administration of the children's room.

William R. Eastman. Library buildings (lectures one to three).

The Junior practice this term covers Mondays and Tuesdays and Friday evenings. The practice on the school-collections takes place Wednesday mornings and the local library visits Wednesday afternoons. The first local library visits were scheduled to the Society and Mercantile libraries.

Several students availed themselves of the invitation to visit Senator Clark's art-gallery, as given through the New York library club on March 11.

Twenty-six librarians and assistants are registered for the "May course for librarians." Seven libraries in New York state, five in Connecticut, and five in New Jersey, will be represented, three libraries sending two or more assistants.

MARY W. PLUMMER,
Principal.

New York state library

The usual biennial trip to libraries of New York, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia and Washington was made March 29 to April 8. The libraries visited were the New York public library (including the Harlem and Seward Park branches), the Newark free public library and its business branch, the Columbia University library and the Bryson library of Teacher's college, the Brooklyn public, Pratt Institute free library and Library Society of Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr college library, the University of Pennsylvania library, the Library of Congress, the libraries of the United States department of agriculture and the Documents office and the Public library of the District of Columbia. A considerable number of the students made optional visits to the office of the H. W. Wilson Co., White Plains, N. Y., the Ridgway branch of the Philadelphia free library, Haverford College library, the Library of the school of philanthropy (New York City) while several who were interested in special lines of work visited others which could not be included as a regular part of the visit.

The staff and students of the Library school of the New York public library gave the party a luncheon, and informal teas were given by the staffs of the Newark free public library and the Bryn Mawr college library and by Mr and Mrs Stevens of the Pratt Institute free library. With the exception of April 3, on which the party was attacked by one of the worst snow storms of the year, the unusually good weather added much to the comfort and pleasure of the trip.

Miss Jean Hawkins spent several days in March visiting the Pratt Institute library school and the Library school of the New York public library and a number of libraries in New York City.

Several additions to the collection of juvenile literature have recently been made by interested alumni and friends. Among recent donors are Miss Caro-

line M. Hewins, Miss Mary L. Davis and Miss Frances J. Olcott.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

The class left New York on Friday afternoon, March 26, for Philadelphia, where they remained until Monday morning. Saturday morning a visit was made to the Library Company, where Mr Abbot discoursed entertainingly of the early and later history of the library. The rest of the day was spent in various departments and branches of the Philadelphia public library. Leary's old bookstore was visited Monday morning and a number of commissions for the library were executed there. A stop-over was made at Wilmington in order to see the library of Wilmington institute, and another at Baltimore where the new library building of Johns Hopkins university was inspected. Headquarters in Washington were at the Hotel Powhatan where we were made very comfortable. Among the Washington institutions visited were Public library of the District of Columbia, Superintendent of Documents office, the library of the Engineering school of the War college, the Library of Congress, where we were entertained at luncheon by Mr H. H. B. Meyer, Pratt, '02, and the libraries of the Smithsonian Institution, of the Bureau of education, and of the Department of agriculture. Among the visits of non-professional interest were those to Mount Vernon, the White House, the Pan-American Union, the National gallery, and the Corcoran art gallery. We were favored by wonderful weather until Saturday when, owing to the blizzard, the proposed visit to Annapolis was given up and the class returned directly to New York.

The class in Book selection have had an interesting problem to work out this year—the selection of a class-room library for the use of the apprentices of the Brooklyn public library—the plan being to have a class-room collection which should be representative of new

movements, activities, and ideas in different fields of knowledge. The students have greatly enjoyed this, and one of them said to me, after the first list had been discussed in class, "I never supposed I could possibly learn so much about books in so short a time."

The April lectures included Mr Eastman, who gave his regular course on Library buildings during the first two weeks of April, and Miss Plummer, who gave her course on the History of libraries on consecutive Tuesday afternoons in April. Miss Marie Shedlock gave an evening of fairy stories in the Children's room on April 9, to which the class was invited.

The Library school was sorry to have missed the visit of the Albany library school which occurred during our own spring trip. The Syracuse library school visited the library on Thursday afternoon, April 15.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-Director.

Simmons college

The college reopened, after the Easter recess, on April 6, and will continue, except for the respite of Lexington day, until the end of the term on Decoration day. Final examinations follow June 1-11, and the Commencement exercises will be held June 16.

Lecturers scheduled for April and May are:

Dr L. L. Campbell, Some of the best books and periodicals on physics; Dr J. F. Norris, Some of the best books and periodicals on chemistry; Miss Maud Campbell, The Massachusetts free library commission's work with foreigners; Miss Lutie Stearns, ———; Dr Louis N. Wilson, Library administration from the point of view of a university librarian; E. H. Anderson (two lectures), Library administration, considered especially from its human relations; The New York public library.

The annual visit to the libraries of Providence will be made on one of the remaining Saturdays.

Several of the students are doing paid practice work in cataloging or organizing in private or society libraries of Boston.

A new field of practice work is just

being opened up which is of especial interest in view of the increasing importance of the work of the librarian in school libraries, especially secondary schools. The principal of the Girls' Latin school, our neighbor on the Fenway, has granted us the privilege of sending students into the high school library to observe and obtain practical experience in handling the problems of such a library.

This school has a most attractive library room, with equipment, and the library is actively used, under the direction of Miss Pulsifer of the English department, and the opportunity for cooperation which will be mutually advantageous to the two institutions seems very favorable.

The Boston Normal school, near by, also has a good library room, with a collection of books, and a number of class room libraries, and it is hoped that this, too, may later be a field for practice, as well as the other educational institutions now building on the Fenway.

An interesting piece of bibliographical work just completed by a Simmons graduate is the "Classified selected list of references on city planning," by Theodora Kimball, '08. The National conference on city planning is publishing this list, which contains about 1,000 titles of material which is useful and available, representative, well illustrated or suggestive of particular points of view!

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY.

Western Reserve university

March 17 was a day filled with varied and pleasing interests for the school. Mr T. McBlack, director of recreation in the department of Public Welfare of the city of Cleveland, spoke in the course on "The public library and community welfare," on "Recreation, a community necessity." Miss M. E. Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, whose coming had been keenly anticipated, lectured on "The fifth kingdom and its keeper," giving an inspiring presentation of the nobility and dig-

nity of the librarian's calling as the keeper of the king's treasures—the books. The class party in the evening, celebrated St. Patrick's day in several novel ways, and the presence of Miss Ahern as the guest of honor added greatly to the pleasure of the occasion.

Miss Anna G. Hubbard, head of the order department of the Cleveland public library, gave three lectures during March to the school on Bookbuying, Publishers, and on the work of her department. Miss Lutie E. Stearns, whose popularity as a platform lecturer has not lessened her interest in library work and library schools, was a welcome visitor on March 30, when she spoke to the students on "Social relationships in community life," a subject which was intimately related to the course on "Community welfare." Miss Stearns prefaced this lecture by discussing the "Library spirit," and with her usual wit and wisdom delighted all who had the privilege of hearing her. Following the Easter vacation of one week, the first lecture in the "Community welfare" course was by Allen T. Burns, secretary of the Cleveland Foundation survey, on the work of the "Foundation" and the plans for the educational survey of the city of Cleveland which is being undertaken by the Foundation.

A decision has been announced by the University faculty providing that for the combined course of the Library school and the College for women, one full year's credit for the year's work in the Library school is allowed and the year in the Library school may be taken either the third or fourth year of the combined course. Elections must be made at the close of the freshman year in the College for women for this course when a conference is held with the director of the Library school.

ALICE S. TYLER,
Director.

Summer Schools

A summer school for library workers will be held at State College June 28 to August 7, under the direction of

the Pennsylvania free library commission. All information will be given on application to the Free library commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

The Minnesota library commission will hold a summer school for library training at the State university, July 14-July 23. Tuition is free to those who live in Minnesota. Full information will be given on application to Miss Clara F. Baldwin, St. Paul, Minn.

A summer school will be held at Columbia university July 6-August 13, under the charge of Miss Helen Rex Keller. Mary E. Hall, Ida M. Mendenhall, Frederick C. Hicks, Laura R. Gibbs, are among the instructors.

A complete announcement will be sent on request.

A summer school for librarians will be held at Butler college, Indianapolis, under the direction of the Public library commission of Indiana, June 14 to July 24. Butler college is on the extreme edge of the city, in all the openness of the country.

Only those who have had a four years' high school course and are filling library positions, or under definite appointment, will be admitted. Those under appointment who have had no library experience must serve at least four weeks in a well organized library before they are admitted. Teachers who have charge of school libraries will be considered eligible.

No examinations will be required. Applications must be filled out and filed by the applicant, who must also secure the recommendation of a member of a local library board. Only a limited number can be admitted, and applications should be sent promptly to the Secretary of the Commission, 104 State House, before May 15.

Miss Margaret Mann will teach for six weeks in the Riverside (Cal.) summer school. The recent reduction in the appropriation for the Carnegie library by the Pittsburgh city council, makes her available for the school work at this time. She will give instruction in cataloging.

News from the Field

East

A most disastrous fire occurred in the Public library of Lowell, Mass., March 1.

H. E. Roelke, reference librarian of Brown university, Providence, R. I. has been appointed assistant reference librarian of the John Crerar library, Chicago.

The annual report of the Public library of Waltham, Mass., for 1914, records the number of books as 42,059; number of volumes circulated for home use, 125,626; receipts for the year, \$9,208; expenditures, \$9,208; \$2,044 for books and \$4,979 for library service.

Champlin Burrage, librarian of Manchester college, Oxford, England, has been elected as head of the John Carter Brown library of Providence, R. I. Mr. Burrage is an alumnus of Brown university, but has lived in England and on the continent since his graduation in 1896.

The annual report of the Fletcher free library of Burlington, Vt., records a circulation of 87,041 v., the largest in the history of the library; card holders, 7,000; circulation, four per capita; pictures lent, 1,423. There was a change in the entire staff of the library, except the librarian, during the year.

The annual report of the Public library of Lewiston, Me., records the number of books in the library, 22,119; while 63,239 v. were circulated for home use. The income was \$5,500; expenditures, \$5,500, of which salaries and service were \$2,590. There were 1,366 cards issued, of which 185 were renewals.

The annual report of the Public library of Milton, Mass., records the appropriation for the year as \$10,746; expenditures, \$10,432; of which, salaries and service were \$6,852; books and binding, \$1,030; periodicals, \$306.

Several exhibits were held during the year, the most popular one being that arranged by a Bird club. Instruc-

tion in the use of the library was given in the high school and eighth grades.

Total circulation for the year was 74,508 v., circulation per capita was 9.4; per cent of fiction, 67.

The Public library of Norwalk, Conn., had a very prominent place in the recent civic and industrial fair held in that city.

In a tastefully arranged booth, the activities of the library were shown by means of charts and other graphic material. The number of lectures, story hours, the circulation, things wanted next year, were shown by means of posters. Collections of books, relating to various subjects, with placards calling attention to their character, were displayed in various places.

The library staff made quite a social affair of each evening, with the members of the staff and the ladies of the town acting as hostesses.

The library and its work were brought prominently before the notice of the large numbers attending the fair, many of whom had not before been interested in the library.

Central Atlantic

The Library of Congress has issued a list of American doctoral dissertations printed in 1913.

Florence I. Holmes, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '12, is engaged in cataloging the private library of Ex-Governor John Alden Dix, Albany, N. Y.

Anna G. Hall, N. Y. State, '15, has discontinued her course at the Library school to accept the librarianship of the Public library at Endicott, N. Y.

The Bogota, N. J., public library was officially opened April 10, with an informal reception. The circulation of books began April 12, with about 1,550 books on the shelves.

A bronze memorial tablet has been erected in the City hall at Passaic, N. J., in the memory of the late W. C. Kimball, its foremost citizen in the interest of library extension.

Lida C. Vasbinder, N. Y. State, '11,

will leave her position as assistant in the Legislative reference section of the New York state library to become reference librarian at Colgate university.

Dr W. R. Martin, librarian of the Hispanic society of America, died in New York February 21. Dr. Martin was a member of a number of learned societies, and had received several honorary degrees in addition to his Ph. D., received from Tubingen, in 1887.

The annual report of the Public library of Perth Amboy, N. J., for 1914, records a circulation of 82,037 v; number of borrowers, 9,182; population, 40,000. Number of books in the library, 11,398. Receipts, \$6,899; expenditures: salaries, \$3,515; books and periodicals, \$1,538.

Following last year's exhibit, illustrating the making of an etching, the Print division of the New York public library has now arranged in the Print gallery an exhibit dealing with the making of a line etching.

The processes are first shown by illustrations; then a series of prints arranged in chronological order, showing the development of the art from the earliest date and the simplest treatment to the most varied and involved which can be produced today; then groups showing development in certain directions, such as book illustrations, annuals, English and American prints, bank note work and its influence.

The annual report of the State librarian of Pennsylvania records 4,164 v. purchased, and nearly 2,000 received by exchange and as gifts, with a larger attendance of serious workers in the library than in any previous year. About 100 v. a day are sent out for home use.

The use of photostats in reproducing material of value has been gratifying. Rare material sent from Europe has been reproduced for the benefit of Pennsylvania scholars.

Over 200 exhibits were held in the Educational division during the year; 59,765 slides were circulated.

Visits were made to 159 libraries by the Free library commission; eight new libraries were organized, and eight old libraries reorganized. Nine meetings of library workers were held in the state. Fifty conferences were held with library trustees and public gatherings. A summer school was held at State College.

Central

The annual report of the Public library of Elgin, Ill., records a circulation of 212,083 v.

Miss Kathryn Cossitt, for some years librarian of the Public library of Wichita, Kans., has resigned her position.

The annual report of the Public library of Fort Dodge, Ia., records the number of books in the library as 15,143; circulation, 52,295 v; borrowers' cards in use, 5,231.

Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan, has outlined a plan for additions to the library building of the University of Michigan, which has outgrown both the original building and the additions made to it in recent years.

Hazel Armstrong has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Mount Vernon, Ind., to succeed Julia Mason, resigned to be married. Miss Armstrong was formerly at the Emmeline Fairbanks Memorial library, and recently cataloged the library at St. Mary's of the Woods, Ind., and the libraries of the Departments of biology and political economy at De Pauw university.

Mr S. P. Prowse has been elected librarian of the Public library of Peoria, Ill., to succeed the late E. S. Willcox. Mr Prowse is not a professional librarian, but he has been a member of the Board of the Public library.

A circulating library for the Congregational clergymen of Illinois is to be put in operation by the Hammond library, 1610 Warren Avenue, Chicago, under the direction of the Illinois Con-

gregational conference. The library will be ready for use April 1, and will be operated without cost to the Congregational clergy of the state.

The St. Louis public library has acquired a photostat, which will be placed at the service of the public on payment of the cost of labor and material. The prices have been fixed as follows: First negative print (white on black), 25c; subsequent prints, 10c; first positive print (black on white), with negative, 25c; subsequent positive prints, 15c.

The annual report of the Public library of Virginia, Minn., gives interesting figures concerning the work with foreigners. Nine different languages are covered in the newspapers and book collections. These collections contain 4,331 v., used many times over.

There were 5,683 v. circulated through the grade schools. Discarded books and duplicate copies of magazines were sent to homesteaders and to the lumber camps. A large use has been made of the club rooms of the library. A most successful feature was the regular Sunday Victrola concert.

The number of volumes in the library is 13,080; number of borrowers' cards in force, 1,339; circulation, 76,419; percentage of non-fiction, 46.

The receipts were \$11,376; expenditures, \$10,929; salaries, \$3,757; books, \$2,798; periodicals, \$297; binding, \$349.

Alice Searle, librarian of the John McIntire library, Zanesville, O., died March 7, after an illness of several months, aged 72 years. Miss Searle was librarian of the Buckingham library in Zanesville until that library was merged with the Zanesville Athenæum, and made the John McIntire library, when she became librarian of the latter.

She lost her home in the flood of March, 1913, and this shock, together with her hard labor in trying to save the old books when the river went into the library, laid the foundation for her last illness.

Miss Searle was greatly beloved in her community and throughout the state.

She was a woman of fine personal qualities as well as mental endowments.

Mary E. Elder, her niece, who was assistant in the library, is now acting librarian and will probably succeed Miss Searle.

The annual report of the Lincoln library, Springfield, Ill., records a total circulation of 180,874; of which 103,044 was from the adult department, and of this latter, 74,057 v. were fiction. Of the whole circulation, 112,800 v. were fiction. There are 61,000 v. on the shelves.

Considerable attention has been given to reference work for various organizations, particularly for women's clubs. Lists for the latter embrace 173 topics, including references to 2,738 articles.

Of the 9,350 children in the graded schools, 3,474 are card holders.

The annual report of the Public library of Davenport, Ia., records the income for the year as \$21,974; of which \$3,095 was spent for books; \$938 for binding; \$7,029 for salaries; total expenditure, \$16,634.

The home circulation of books reached 174,275. The percentage of fiction was 64.3; number of pictures circulated, 4,321.

Special efforts were made to keep the library and its work before the public. Advertising slides were used in several moving picture shows, and by the newspapers when announcing election returns. A valuable gift was received, consisting of 65 v. and several large folios of colored plates on Egyptology.

In the biennial report of the Iowa library commission, 1912-14, it is stated that but seven towns in the state with a population of over 2,000 are without a public library, and but 10 of the public libraries in the state are without library buildings.

There are 115 free public libraries in the state, and two endowed libraries. Gifts for 11 Carnegie buildings were received.

The township library law has authorized contract with town, township, school corporation or county, for the

free use of the library, on the payment of a definite sum. This form of library extension is growing, as many of the library units are too small to make possible the support of a library.

Twelve leaflets on various library subjects were published. Many rural schools are receiving schoolroom libraries from the commission. There were 252 libraries in fixed collections of 50 books each, and these with an open shelf collection, make 28,027 v. in the traveling library collection.

There were 411 new stations registered during the two years, making a total of 1,015.

South

The recent session of the Oklahoma legislature appropriated \$50,000 for a new library building at Edmond for the Central state normal.

Virginia Barringer has resigned as librarian of the Public library of Shelbyville, Ky., and Jennie R. Sampson has been elected her successor.

Miss Elizabeth H. West, for some time in charge of organizing the Texas state library, has resigned her position to become librarian of the Carnegie library at San Antonio.

Professor C. Klaerner, a prominent German school teacher of Brenham, Tex., has been appointed state librarian by the governor to succeed E. W. Winkler. The appointment is purely for political considerations.

A \$10,000 annex to the Public library of Charlotte, N. C., was dedicated April 10. The ground floor contains an auditorium. Addresses were made by prominent citizens on the value of the library to the community. Among the speakers was the very popular former librarian, Mrs. Annie Smith Ross-Hovey.

The annual report of the Public library of Tyler, Tex., records an increase of 20 per cent in the circulation. Publicity for the library was attempted in an exhibit at the East Texas fair; story hours; slides at moving picture shows;

printed signs in street cars and through the newspapers.

Small collections of books were placed in the primary grades with great success. The library is greatly in need of more funds to keep up the progress that has been made in the work.

West

Mary E. Downey has been elected secretary and organizer of library extension in Utah by the State Board of education to succeed H. M. Driggs, resigned.

Miss Downey has been organizing the work under Mr Driggs' direction for the past two years. The legislature has given increased appropriation and the prospects for the future of libraries in Utah are most encouraging.

Pacific Coast

Lillian Burt, Pratt '02, has been made cataloger at the Pacific Unitarian school for the ministry at Berkeley, Cal.

Edward Gillingham has been appointed librarian of the Supreme Court of Oregon to succeed the late Edna M. Hawley.

Edna M. Hawley, State law-librarian of Oregon, died in Salem February 26. Miss Hawley was born in Chicago and took the library course at the University of Illinois. She had been connected with library work in Oregon for the last ten years.

Miss Hawley had been librarian of the Oregon law library since the 1st of June, 1909, and had accomplished a remarkable work in that position, having made the library one of the best on the coast, very widely used and very much appreciated. Before becoming librarian Miss Hawley was cataloger in the Law library, and had done other important pieces of cataloging work in Oregon—in the Library of the Agricultural college, and in the Public library at Eugene. Miss Hawley had a very rare personality and a very fine nature. She was a successful librarian and a very public-spirited and useful citizen.